

Entrous

2007 - voi. 87 - Samford University

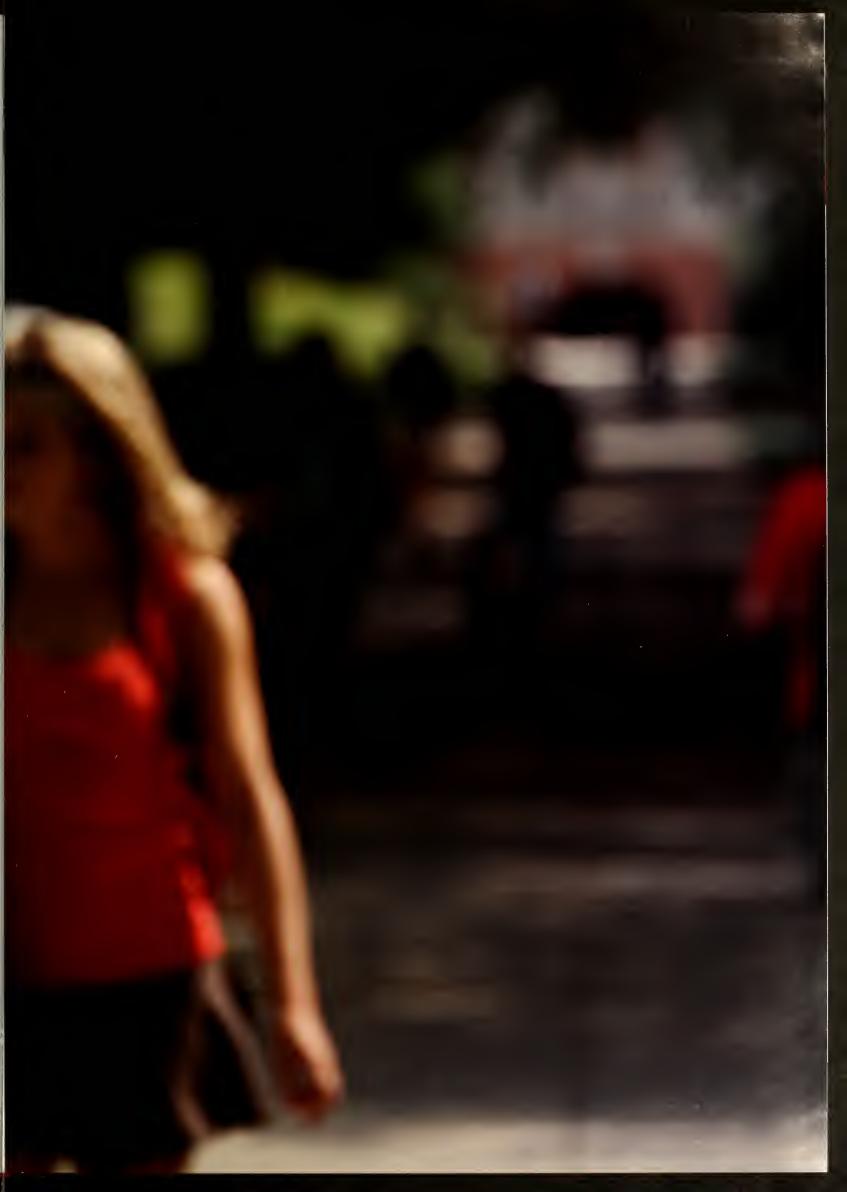












Entre Nous

Between Us 2007

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The staff of Entre Nous seeks to provide documentation of a year in the life of the Samford Community. To us this means more than recounting events. We seek to capture the impressions the year left on students, faculty, staff and administration by moving beyond the events themselves to the way they affected and shaped us.

Samford University is an Equal Opportunity Institution and welcomes applications for employment and educational programs from all individuals regardless of race, color, sex, age, disability or national or ethic origin.

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Letters from the Editors

Entre Nous–French for "between us" – describes exactly what this book is; a collection of events and memories from the past year here at Samford University, in the bubble, in our community, shared between us, the new freshmen, the graduating seniors, Ms. Dot, Dr. Westmoreland, and every single student and faculty and staff member who represents Samford.

Whether this year marked the beginning or the end of your time here, Samford has somehow touched us all. From endless nights of studying to endless nights of Step Sing practices, we will all take away memories from this college experience that we'll never forget. My hope is that this yearbook will be your creative guide through "memory lane" now and in years to come.

As for me, I've always been somewhat of a "scrapbooker," collecting photos, designing decorative pages with paper and stickers. However, this 200-and-forty-something page book was quite a challenge. So many people worked so hard to create this book and make sure 2007 was represented as we lived it and will remember it. I couldn't have done it without my amazing staff members and will never forget what I've learned from this experience.

Good luck to everyone in your future endeavors. Reminisce and enjoy!

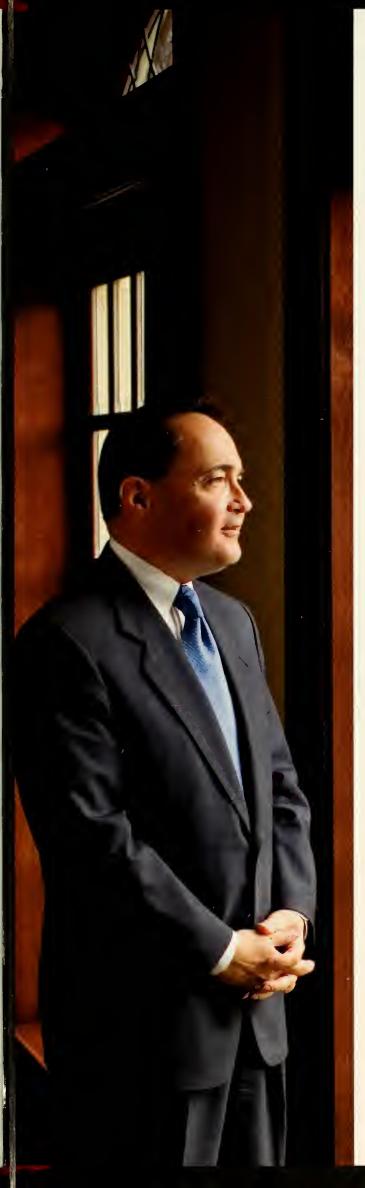
Jessica Casto

"I'd like to thank everybody for their hard work this year, especially in working out the remaining kinks in the transition process from magazine to book. The project really picked up some steam and definite direction, and the two people who were the most responsible for it are running the show for next year! I'm eager to see this new tradition evolve in the coming years, and I hope it continues to bring together students from the Arts and Journalism schools."

Nick Holdbrooks

For me the 2006-2007 school year was one of the hardest, filled with more stress and struggle than any year before it. However it was also one that proved to be the most memorable. From almost losing a brotherhood, to changing majors in my third year, I've learned so much. Working on this book will allow me to never forget my most memorable year here at Samford University and I hope all the long hours of hard work I've put into this book of memories will help you do the same.

Austin Richardson



Dr. Westmoreland's "First Thoughts"

When Dr. Andrew Westmoreland became Samford's eighteenth president he began a series of monthly e-mail messages called "First Thoughts." These messages not only updated the Samford community on the current happenings around campus, but also gave us a look into Dr. Westmoreland's thoughts as he progressed through his first year. To summarize what this year has meant to many people, we thought it would be appropriate to include Dr. Westmoreland's "First Thoughts" from the month of May.

With the end of another academic year at Samford, I give thanks...

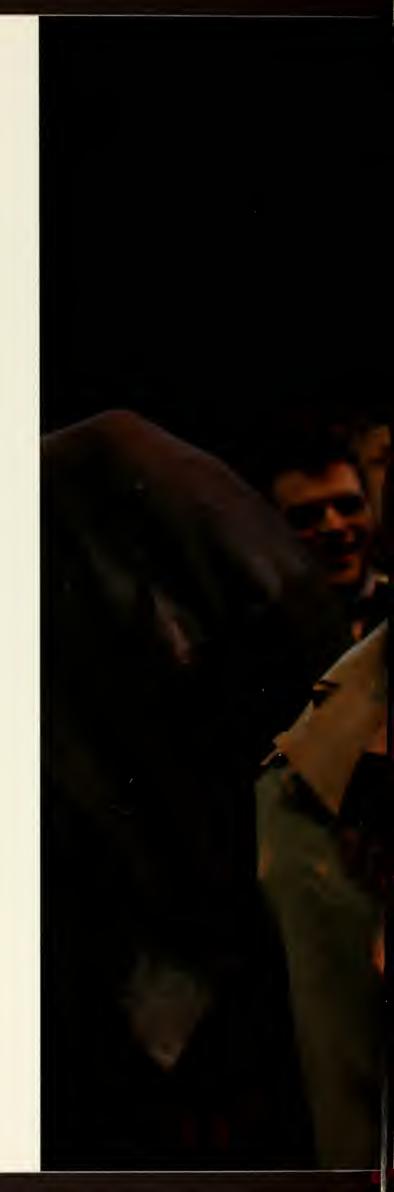
Thanks for our mentor and friend, Ron Jenkins, for being a tower of strength... thanks for those who have given of their talents to enrich our lives through the arts and athletics... thanks to those who have stopped me to say hello and to offer a word of encouragement... thanks for the thousands of hours of service given to meet the needs of those outside these gates... thanks to the members of our faculty who push for higher standards and then find the ways to help their students meet those standards... thanks to the members of our staff for selfless service... thanks to parents for paying the bills and for providing encouragement seven or eight times each day via cell phone conversations... thanks to Alabama Baptists and thousands of other friends for loving and sustaining us in the work of this place... thanks to our trustees for leading by example... thanks to those who build our new facilities and to those who keep clean our not-so-new facilities... thanks for not hitting me in the head with a Frisbee as I walk across the quad... thanks to those who prepared and served the thousands of great meals in the caf... thanks for understanding that my inbox is always overflowing... thanks to the Greek students who are helping to transform lives at McElwain and elsewhere... thanks to the hundreds of students who have worked in churches and accomplished mission projects... thanks to every employee for practicing good stewardship of the resources entrusted to us... thanks for making my entire family feel at home this year... thanks for comforting those friends and colleagues who lost family members . . . thanks for your patience with the construction... thanks for using the library... thanks for the sacrifice of time and resources made by so many to accomplish the dream of a degree and the horizon of expanded opportunities... thanks for reflecting the face of Christ on March 30 and on other days throughout the year... thanks for asking hard questions... thanks for demanding that we improve... thanks for your civility... thanks for the bling... thanks for the hundreds of items that wouldn't fit into this rambling e-mail message... thanks for memories that will last a lifetime.

Finish strong.

Andy Westmoreland

Aspire

So much of college life is made up of activities and memories right on campus. Whether it is smiling faces at Welcome Back or the excitement during Step Sing, the organizations, events and people here at Samford reflect our aspirations every day.





Making the Connection

by Maegan Wilson Photo: Maegan Wilson Spread: Austin Richardson

The verb connect is defined as "to join" or "to link" and is synonymous with words such as tie, unite, bond, relate and associate. Entering freshmen have experienced these actions for years now through Samford's Connections program. The real question is whether or not freshmen actually connected during this hectic, crazy, nonstop and quite random four-day period in 2006.

Despite what the common Samfordite may think, the Connections process actually begins in the fall semester with the selection of the orientation leaders. This group of three guys and three girls is not only in charge of leading summer

orientations, but also helps select the Connections leaders as well. They then help train the new leaders at the end of the spring semester and before the freshman arrive. During Connections, the orientation leaders' main job is to make sure everything runs smoothly while the Connections leaders guide the freshmen.

This year, the phenomenal group of six orientation leaders included junior nursing major Laura Durchsprung, junior communication studies major Suzanne Goddard, senior psychology major Grant McDaniel, junior accounting major Ryan McIntire, junior business major Hunter Pew and junior communication studies major Sara Beth Turner.

The Connections buzz picked up later in the spring semester when Connections leader applications were distributed.

There were various interest meetings where potential leaders



were addressed by Student Activities and Leadership Education Director Jennifer Dunn Hall. She explained the application process and everything that is required and expected of a Connections leader. After submitting an application, each potential Connections leader interviewed with two orientation leaders. About 300 students applied and interviewed in 2006, and only 40 guy-girl pairs were selected along with alternates.

"Every applicant is usually qualified and would do the job very well. Therefore, the process is tedious and difficult," said Turner.

Goddard also described the characteristics of an ideal Connections leader. "Leaders are picked based on their ability to lead others, their desire to serve new students, their demonstration of personal integrity and other important things like their attractiveness, favorite colors and whether or not they can cook a descent dessert!"

What is it about Connections that draws so much interest? A hodgepodge of reasons exists. "I wanted to be a Connections leader because I didn't want to work back at home," said Pew.

Durchsprung said, "Orientation and Connections meant so much to me because I felt as if people accepted me and wanted me to be here. I know there were probably some new students just like me, and being able to be there for them and tell them that it was going to be OK was my priority."

After the 40 pairs were selected, the training began. The most intense and fun-filled days of training were the four days before the freshmen moved onto campus. The days were full of getting to know yourself, the other leaders, your partner and the ins and outs of Samford through games, challenges, interactive lessons and spending hours at a time in Divinity North 302. Training got long at times, but it was pertinent in getting ready to guide the freshmen.

Move-in day was perhaps one of the biggest and most important events during the Connections process. "It's our first interaction with the freshman and first impressions can mean the world to someone," Pew said. Along with doing the heavy lifting, the leaders are there to reassure parents. One of the many new additions to the 2006 Connections program included the Samford Family Welcome in the Wright Center after the new students were moved in.

The infamous and highly awkward yet entertaining Playfair was one of the other first day events. Freshman religion major Katey Lackey thoroughly enjoyed the spandex-filled evening. "Playfair reminded me that all of the freshmen were in the same situation as me. It was really cool to meet so many people at once and not be intimidated the whole time," she said.

The second day was filled with more group meetings and an address by Chief Judge of U.S. District Court of North Alabama U.W. Clemon and Assistant Professor of history Dr. Jonathan Bass on race in Birmingham. Another new addition

to Connections was the freshmen 80s throwback dance that took place that night.

On the third afternoon, a simulation called "Life Comes at You Fast!" took place. This event was new to orientation for both Connections leaders and new students alike. "It simulated a college campus, and students went to different booths that portrayed certain college situations. They set goals and tried to reach them during two 20 minute semesters," Durchsprung said.

Some of the booths included the library, fraternities, sororities, Sonic and a "High School Musical" aerobics class. Students could even lose points and were distracted from getting points by miscellaneous tasks handed out by the Connections leaders and the scandalously short shorts of the water gun-shooting campus safety officer. The orientation leaders wanted to introduce Samford to the new students in a creative way and give them a hands-on experience through goal setting, time management and involvement.

"There were moments in training when Suzanne and I, who taught the simulation to the leaders, had no idea how it was going to work. We had an overwhelmingly positive response to the simulation. I was so thankful we took the risk," Turner said. The simulation was followed by girls and guys night out and the viewing of "Hook" at the historic Alabama Theatre.

The final day of Connections began with the presentation of the Class of 2010 up Centennial Walkway. This was followed by a worship service in Reid Chapel. The highlight of the afternoon was ice cream with the President. The new students and leaders were bussed in shifts to Dr. Westmore land's house to enjoy some sweet food, some sweet karaoke and self-led tours around his sweet pad.

Despite all the fun, some incoming freshmen choose not to participate in all the activities Connections has to offer. "It is an overwhelming and fast-paced experience, and many students don't come to appreciate it until much later in their freshman year, but regardless, Connections is a crucial part of Samford life, and it does make a difference," Goddard said.

The goal of Connections is to get new students adapted to college life specifically at Samford and to ease some of the stress and confusion in a fun way. "My Connections experience was very helpful," said Lackey. "I know my friends at state schools have really struggled to get involved. Connections helped me become familiar with the Birmingham area and I learned about Samford and some of the great things it has to offer. I really benefited from the whole process."

Welcome Back

by Melissa Poole Photo: Bob Miller Spread: Austin Richardosn

Every Samford student knows that when they return to 800 Lakeshore Drive on that late August day, there will be many activities waiting to welcome them back. Everyone looks forward to dinner on the dirt, the Sloss Furnaces dance, fun in the Caf and all that goes along with Welcome Back. This year was no different.

Welcome Back 2006 kicked off with the traditional dinner on the dirt. The Wes Loper Band serenaded students while they enjoyed country fixins such as chicken tenders, green beans, mashed potatoes and Samford favorite, Milo's sweet tea. "We wanted students to feel at home and comfortable with a good Alabama country feel," said sophomore Payden George, Welcome Back 2006 co-chair.

Dinner on the dirt is one of the most popular Samford SGA activities all year. "We always have a great turnout for this event," said SGA Vice President for Activities, senior Blake Eckert. "Students love coming to this event to spend a couple of hours catching up with their friends."

Dinner on the Dirt is not the only Samford tradition associated with Welcome Back. Students look forward each year to the dance at Sloss Furnaces. After last year's Sloss cancellation (due to the approaching hurricane), many students were extremely ready for the tradition to be brought back to Samford. "We worked especially hard to find a band that was going to rock. We wanted students to feel like this was the best Sloss they had ever attended," said senior Lauren Herb, SGA Student Activities Council Administrator. The SGA certainly accomplished that goad as students danced and rocked to the sounds of Fly By Radio.

Welcome Back 2006 also brought back the Alabama Adventure day. Absent from Samford events for several years, many students headed out to the once Visionland to experience the new and improved Alabama Adventures. Students received discounted tickets and were pumped to be a part of the park, which opened exclusively to Samford for an evening of fun. "We felt like Alabama Adventures would be a great way for people to tap into their fun inner-child," said Welcome Back 2006 co-chair, sophomore Lee Ross.

Whether it was asking the question: "how was your summer?" at Dinner on the Dirt, getting down at Sloss Furnaces or enjoying the rides at Alabama Adventure, Welcome Back 2006 was a way to jump back into school with guns blazing.





Dorm Life

by Taylor Marie Kardoes Photos: Bob Miller Spread: Austin Richardson

Pittman, Smith, and Vail will always have a place in the hearts of Samford students. Dorm life plays a huge role in freshman life. Students learn to adjust to living with another person, sharing a hall bathroom with twenty-some other people, struggling to find parking or trek up the mountain from overflow, constant noise and people, and an internet connection that rarely works. Despite these hardships, students almost always look back on freshman year in the dorms with fond memories. They remember carrying groceries up the hill with friends or driving around listening to the radio for twenty minutes before finding a coveted parking spot on the strip. Girls remember making CDs for the radios in the bathroom and color coordinating their rooms. Guys remember late night Halo and San Andreas tournaments and finally giving in and learning to wash their own laundry sometime in mid-October. Freshmen remember the friendships made living in these tight corridors. They look back on finding friends for late night trips to the student center for wireless internet because a paper must be submitted before midnight and the internet in the dorms won't work no matter how many times you click the little icon. An error message continues to pop up saying "This page could not be found. Please check your connection and try again."

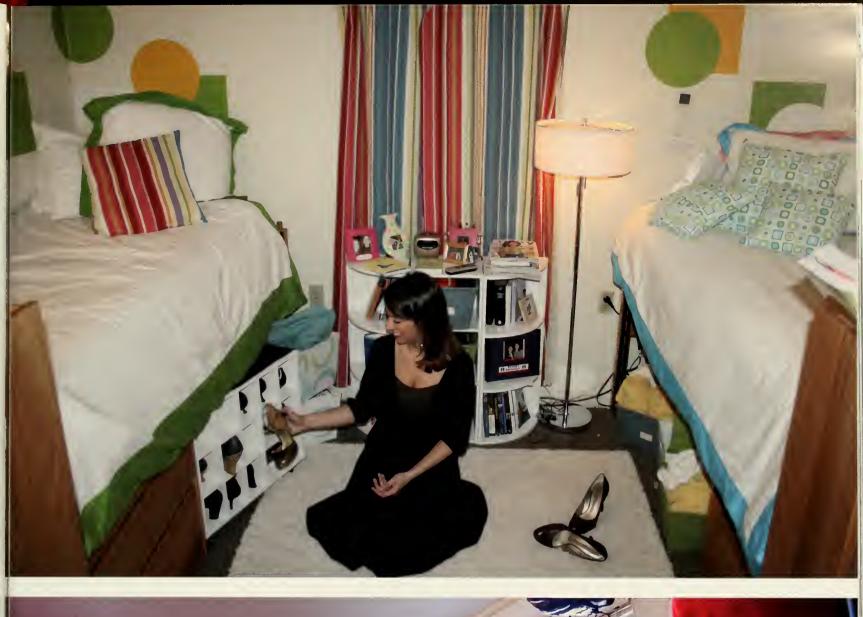
Freshmen remember flag football games and brother-sister hall socials. Boys remember piling into one room to watch the big game together. Girls remember hall dinners, movie nights in the movie room, and trips to a pumpkin patch to pick out pumpkins to celebrate Halloween. Dorm life doesn't end with freshman year.

While the convenience of living in Central campus is sometimes missed by sophomore students who have moved over to Beeson Woods, sharing showers is not.

Unlike in Vail, where the only inequality stems from some girls getting corner rooms, the quality and size of the rooms in Beeson Woods vary much from building to building. You start with Evergreen, where four girls share one bathroom and no common room. To make up for it, on at least one floor the rooms were designed for three people so they are huge.

Then you have, next on the ladder of luxury, the boys' dorms, like Treetop and James. They probably started out nice, but years of abuse from rowdy college boys has left them worse-for-wear. Then you've got your dorms that used to be boys dorms that have been converted to girls dwellings. Attempts to refurbish have been made by Samford, but they still bear the scars of abuse, like holes in wooden doors fixed with putty. Lastly, you have the nice dorms, like Ethel and Orlean. These are for kids with personal connections or who are of junior or senior status.

But wherever you end up in Beeson Woods, they are pretty good digs, and you can't beat the treed, stone bridged, peaceful walk over there.





Packing or staying?

by Lauren Steele
Photo: Becky Ellenberger
Spread: Nick Holdbrooks and Austin Richardson

"Where you going this weekend? I'm going to Knoxville, and you? I'm headed to Auburn to see some friends." You have probably heard this many times in your Samford career. Notorious for being a suitcase school, some Samford students thrive on getting away on the weekends and seeking venues elsewhere. Whether it is going home to relax from a busy week of classes or going to a state school to see friends and have a good time, a majority of Samford students enjoy leaving Birmingham for a weekend getaway.

Students that are from the Birmingham or Tuscaloosa area said it was convenient to go home to do laundry or homework versus staying in the dorms the entire weekend. On the other hand, there are big weekends like Homecoming and Welcome Back where students tend to stay on campus and enjoy the events. There are also Samford students who do have jobs and other various activities that they attend over the weekends such as a philanthropy event or a social gathering. But the bottom line is this: Samford has continuously been referred to as a suitcase school, but there is a change emerging in which students actually enjoy staying in Birmingham and having a good time here.

After inquiring several students, I got some feedback on what they would consider a fun weekend in Birmingham. Journalism and Mass Communication major Caroline Bell said, "I have a routine that I like to go by when I am in Birmingham on the weekends and it goes like this: I make a trip to O'Carrs every Saturday morning and if the weather is nice, I like to run the trail in Mountain Brook that afternoon. I also really enjoy going to Cool Beans and grabbing a cup of coffee with my friends." Several other students said they enjoyed simply going to a movie with their friends or their significant others and grabbing a bite to eat beforehand. So then I asked the question, "What is your favorite restaurant to go to on the weekends?" Out of all the students I inquired, many of them said they enjoyed going to Formaggio's, which is a pizza

joint in the downtown area of Birmingham that is open twenty four hours and has free karaoke every night. Other restaurants that competed for student's favorites were Cheesecake Factory, Mellow Mushroom and Rojo.

When asking students what their favorite place was to go on the weekends, many said that they enjoyed going to Nashville and Atlanta because they had more to offer and specifically more concerts. Junior Geography major Blake Gilbert reflected on his past three years at Samford and said, "I frequently visit Atlanta because they have all kinds of shows that I enjoy like Perpetual Groove and John Butler Trio." Other students responded that they love to go to the beach on the weekends in the early fall and spring simply because it is so close. "I love to go to my beach house in Destin on the weekends because it is so relaxing and is an easy escape from the busy life I lead at school," Junior Management major Blake Bowen said. Overall, whether you attend a state school or a private school like Samford, students everywhere enjoy a weekend excursion.

However, there are fun places to go in town. For example, Five Points is a popular location for Samford students on the weekends because it has much to offer including everything from clubs and bars to delicious restaurants. Samford may be a suitcase college for many; but not for everyone. Where will you go this weekend? You may actually decide to stay in Birmingham and enjoy the nightlife as well as seek out the many opportunities the city has to offer.



Coming Home

by Elizabeth Hunt Photos: Emily Aiken, Lindsay Vaughn Spread: Austin Richardson

Homecoming! Literally, it is a welcoming home to those from Samford University's past, present and future who come together to celebrate on a beautiful, familiar campus. Full of various activities, reunions and banquets, this year's Homecoming marked the 140th in Samford University's history.

The week began on Thursday, October 19 with Samford students donning their western attire. To complement the theme, a mechanical bull was placed in the cafeteria. Both students and faculty members tried their luck against the electrical beast. Later that evening, Samford University was privileged to host Juan Hernandez for the Davis Lecture held in the Wright Center Concert Hall. Hernandez, founder of the Center for U.S.-Mexico Studies at the University of Texas at Dallas, lectured on "The New American Pioneers: Why Are We Afraid of Mexican Immigrants?" Following the Davis Lecture, the Student Activities Council sponsored a movie on the quad. This year, students took a break from studying and enjoyed the humorous classic The Sandlot.

Dressing in blue and red or Samford apparel, Friday was appropriately deemed Spirit Day. Friday night also offered many different events for the Samford community to attend. There was the decades-old, traditional alumni Homecoming Banquet which took place in the Wright Center Concert Hall. Outside the Wright center was the Homecoming Bash, complete with live music from Soul Cry, a bonfire and a pep rally which included the Samford cheerleaders, the marching band and the 2006 Homecoming Court. The Homecoming Bash ended on a high note with a fantastic firework display.

After the firework show, many students traveled across the street to watch the women's soccer team beat Eastern Illinois University in an exciting overtime.

While this year marked the 140th year for Samford University to celebrate a Homecoming weekend, it was Dr. Andrew Westmoreland's first as the school's new president. Following

the hot-air balloon rides on the quad, Andy, Jeanna and Riley Westmore-land led as the grand marshals of the Homecoming parade. Following the Westmorelands in the parade were various floats decorated by the Greeks, the marching band, the cheerleaders and the reigning Miss Alabama, Melinda Toole '06. Following the parade, the quad was full of reunion tents and food for alumni and friends. Highlights of the Homecoming Festival included "Meet the Westmorelands" in the Samford Alumni Association tent, the Birmingham-based jazz group Tekneek and Samford's own gospel choir.

At 2 p.m., Samford played a fierce match against Tennessee-Martin in Seibert Stadium. Again, Saturday night offered different events and dinners for specific graduating classes and the much anticipated opening of O'Henry's in Samford's food court. Accompanying the fresh coffee of O'Henry's, there were desserts and a concert by Florez in Harry's.

After an exciting weekend full of reunions, sporting events and celebrating, the Homecoming festivities ended Sunday with a Samford Family Worship Service in A. Gerow Hodges Chapel. The guest speaker was Frank Lewis '81 who is the senior pastor of First Baptist Church in Nashville, Tennessee. Following the service, brunch was served in the Beeson University dining hall, and there was no better way to end the weekend than watching the women's soccer team beat Southeast Missouri State.



ABOVE: Several freshmen girls enjoy their first Samford Homecoming experience at the bonfire pep rally.

RIGHT: A little kerosene gets the bonfire roaring.



Homecoming Court

by Elizabeth Hunt Photos: Jonathan Haas Spread: Austin Richardson

Homecoming festivities would not be complete without the traditional homecoming court. At Samford, the homecoming court is made up of a boy and girl representative from the freshman, sophomore and junior class. The senior class, however, is represented by three boys and three girls from the class. Those particular students who have the privilege of forming the homecoming court were nominated, along with other peers, and finally voted upon by their respective classmates.

The first time the 2006 Homecoming Court was announced was at the bonfire on Friday night. Accompanied by the band, cheerleaders and football captains, the homecoming court was introduced to the spirited crowd. The next appearance by the homecoming court was Saturday morning in the parade when each couple waved cheerfully at the Samford fans as they rode in the back of a convertible. Finally, during half time of the Samford football game,

the homecoming court took their places before the excited crowd who was anticipating the announcement of Homecoming King and Queen.

Selected by the Samford student body, 2006's Homecoming King and Queen were D.J. Carter and Christina Knox. The other Homecoming court representatives were:

Freshman Class:

Grace Moon and Oliver Jones

Sophomore Class:

Rebecca Beatty and Andrew Dick

Junior Class:

Ellen Donze and John Ryan Colvin

Senior Class:

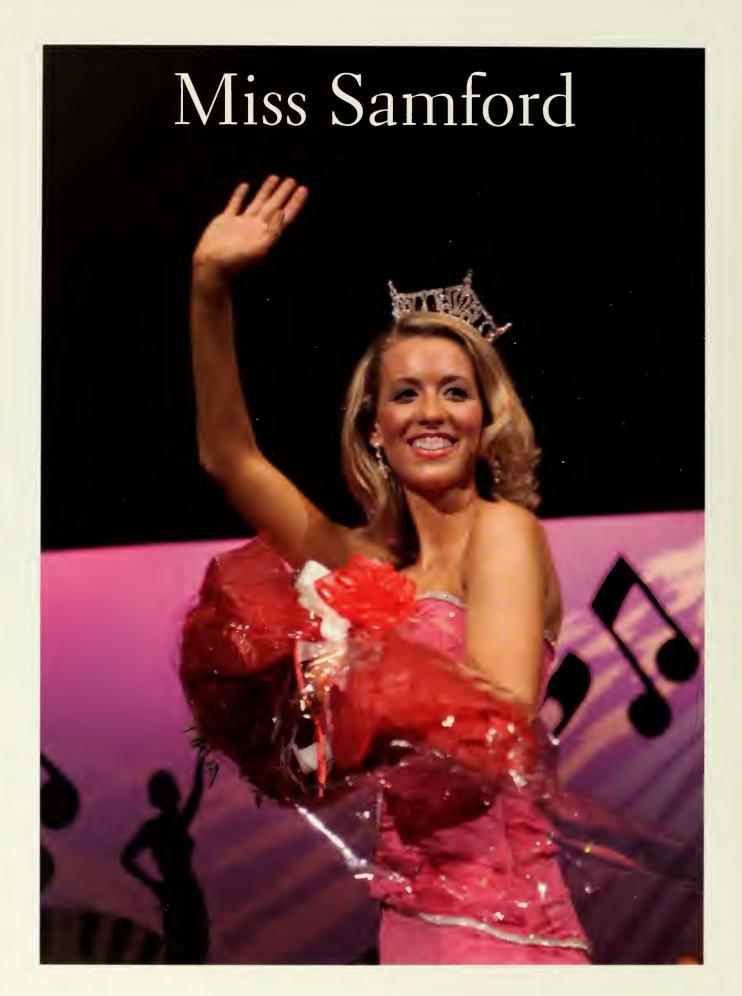
Mary Kathryn Covert, Candis Gardner, Robby Stone, and Bill Anderson

Homecoming King and Queen:

D.J. Carter and Christina Knox







by Brooke Williams, Jessica Garner Photos: Nick Holdbrooks Spread: Austin Richardson

On Friday November 10, 2006, the Wright Center filled with music from a live jazz band as people gathered to watch nine contestants compete for the title of Miss Samford.

"This was my first time to attend the Miss Samford Pageant. I was impressed by how well the pageant was conducted and by the amount of diverse talent these girls displayed," said Grace Stephens, sophomore JMC major.

The evening was kicked off by emcees Ricky Thrash, a senior from Hogansville, Ga., and Miss Alabama 2006 Melinda Toole.

This year, the contestants competed in the categories of lifestyle and fitness, casual wear, talent, evening wear and on-stage questions. In addition to these categories, each girl participated in a private ten-minute interview with the judges prior to the pageant.

Payden George, a sophomore psychology major, won first place in the lifestyle and fitness category. Danielle McNeal, a freshman pre-dental major, won the title of Miss Congeniality, and Jimmi Lynn Dixon, a freshman nursing major, was awarded the title of Spirit of Samford. Jessica Terry, a sophomore piano performance major, placed first in the talent portion of the competition for her performance of Rachmaninoff's "Polichinelle."

Lee Ross, a sophomore who assisted with the pageant's production, said, "In the beginning, during the rehearsals, nothing was together, but when the performance came, everybody knew exactly what they were doing, and it all ran smoothly."

The theme of this year's pageant was "All That Jazz." To help promote this theme, a live jazz band performed throughout the evening. Emily Goette, a co-director of this years' pageant, said, "One of my favorite parts was watching the guy escorts dance to a jazz song with the contestants." She also added, "They were so much fun to see dancing, and they really did a great job."

Awards and honors were handed out to the students who worked so hard to produce the pageant. The Miss Samford pageant is the only Miss America preliminary in Alabama that is entirely produced by students.

This year's pageant co-directors were Emily Goette, a junior business management major, and Nikki Chapman, a junior elementary education major. The co-directors will also help coordinate special appearances and speeches that Miss Samford will make during the upcoming year.

As the evening drew to a close, the audience waited in anticipation as the winners were announced. Second runner-up was Amanda Tapley, a freshman music major from Birmingham, Ala. First runner-up was Payden George, a sophomore psychology major from Centre, Ala. Next came the moment everyone had been waiting for as Jessica Terry was crowned Miss Samford 2006.

As Miss Samford, Terry will spend the next year promoting her philanthropic platform called "Musical Endeavors," which helps bring music to children with special needs. Terry is a native of Birmingham and has competed in ten pageants over the years, which made her the most experienced contestant.



ABOVE: Westmoreland congratulates Jessica Terry on her Miss Samford victory.

Beeson Woods proves they can party

by Jessica Casto Photo: Kasey Cole Spread: Austin Richardson

Every fall, the residents of east campus get together and plan a fun night of dancing, food and fellowship for what is better known as the Beeson Ball.

This year, Samford students and their dates enjoyed a complimentary night of dancing and refreshments at the Vulcan Park ballroom on Saturday, November 11.

The Beeson Ball is designed to give Beeson Woods' residents a chance to get dressed up in ball gowns and suits and mingle with one another. Every student who lives in Beeson Woods is invited and can bring along a guest.

"I was a little nervous about planning the whole event," said Residence Life Educator Kasey Cole, "but the RA's really stepped up and did all the work. They were great and we couldn't have done it without them."

To raise awareness about the upcoming dance, posters go up all over Beeson Woods with the names, faces and a few facts about the people for whom the buildings in Beeson are named. The dance also serves to commemorate the people who made Beeson Woods possible.

For this year's 3rd annual ball, Feel the Beat Entertainment provided the DJ who played some awesome tunes for the exciting dance floor. Every guest said they had a great time.

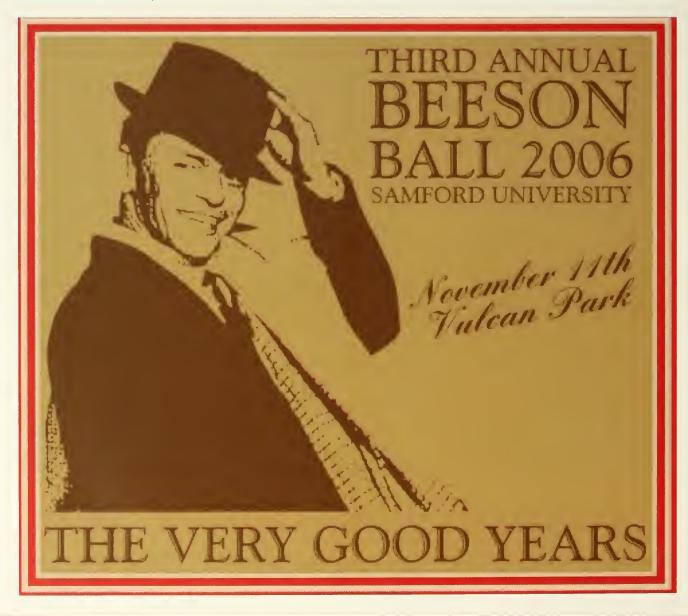
"The ball was really successful," said Cole. "I think we had about 300 students there and it was really fun."

The Beeson Ball is not the only event put on by the east campus RA staff. In the spring, Beeson Woods hosted the Big Phat Spring Social in-between the Lucile and Dwight buildings. However, the activities had to be moved inside the Rosa building due to rain.

Students enjoyed hamburgers, hotdogs, music and inflatable games before the week of finals as a way to relax before the big week.

"We had the inflatable sumo wrestling set up which was fun to watch and a 'Pie Your RA' contest," said Cole.

All the students agreed the event was really fun and a great way to de-stress before finals.





Christmas on Campus

by Katie Lantz Photo: Nick Holdbrooks Spread: Austin Richardson

"Do you see what I see?" Although this is a familiar line from the Christmas song, "Do you hear what I hear?" it is the question that everyone asks when the paths of the quad are illuminated with candles at the annual Student Government Association, Lighting of the Way ceremony. For one night, Samford's campus is transformed into a "winter wonderland" as students, faculty and guests gather on Centennial Walk and wait for the Christmas tree to be lit to officially welcome in the Christmas season.

"Lighting of the Way is one of my favorite Samford traditions," Cassie Applegate, a junior education major, said. "Being so far away from home, I miss out on my family's Christmas preparations. It brings the giving Christmas spirit on campus."

As warm hot cocoa was sipped to keep warm, the University Ministries choir sang familiar carols to warm the spirit. Then Dr. Westmoreland, with his Bible in hand, read the Christmas story from Luke.

"And the angel said to them, 'Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy that will be for all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.'" (Luke 2:10-11 ESV)

As Westmoreland closed his Bible, the tree sparkled with hundreds of lights.

Pictures with friends were taken while many others proceeded to A. H. Reid Chapel for the Hanging of the Green.

This old English tradition has been performed at Samford for the past 26-years. University Ministries, School of Performing Arts and 12-senior honorees perform the symbolic ceremony.



"The senior honorees are nominated by campus organizations, faculty and staff. They are selected for their Christian discipleship, leadership, scholarship, service and overall contribution to Samford University," April Robinson, Minister to Students, Campus and Community Involvement, said.

The senior honorees included: Candis Garner, Chris McCaghren, David Bailey, Steven Bonham, Taylor Clement, Amberleigh Kirk, Katie Lantz, John Parkhurst, Andy Searles, Amanda Spikes, Erin Stewart, John Andrew Wesley and Jennifer Wilmore.

The ceremony began as the University Chorale, conducted by Sharon Lawhon and accompanied by Lynda Little, entered the chapel singing, "Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus." The senior honorees followed, each carrying a poinsettia that is given in honor or in memory of a group or individual in the Samford family.

After Lynsday Cogdill, President of University Ministries, offered the invocation, Garner and McCaghren guided the

rest of the ceremony. The ceremony consisted of six parts: The Advent Wreath, The Wreaths and Garlands, The Holly and the Ivy, The Candles, The Chrismon Tree and The Light. In between, the Bells of Buchanan played, conducted by Bill Strickland, while the University Chorale performed carols.

"Each part helped to tell the Christmas story," Garner, a senior education major said. "I was amazed by how much meaning existed behind the everyday Christmas decorations."

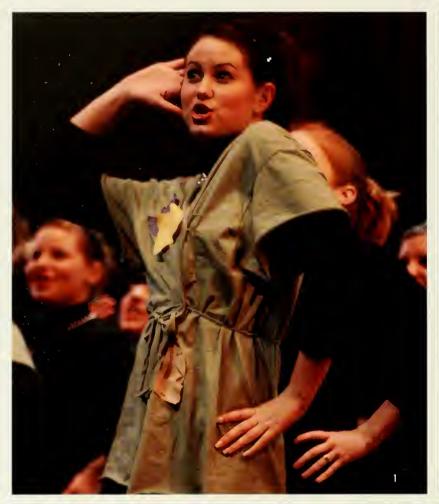
To end the ceremony, each of the 12 seniors, representing the 12 disciples, passed candlelight, from the Hope candle to the rest of the congregation, to represent the hope of Christ.

Robinson said, "As the senior honorees recessed from the chapel, they represented the Light of the World being taken to our world. Each of us is challenged to bear witness of that Light as well."

Senior business major, Kim Matthews said, "It was neat to see the candlelight on the quad and the candlelight in Reid chapel as visual reminders to the Light of Christ within us."



Rolling Out the Red Carpet







1 Alpha Delta Pi 2 Alpha Omicron Pi 3 Chi Omega 4 Freshmen Girls 5 Lambda Chi Alpha 6 Sigma Chi



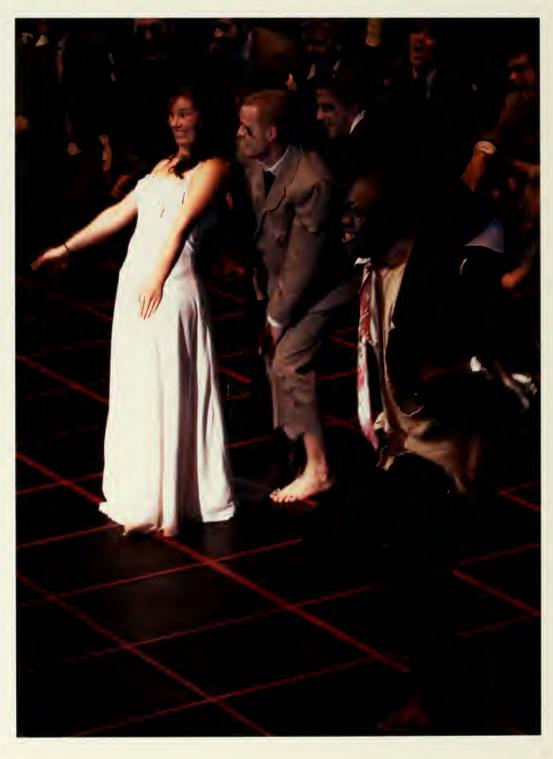




The Winners

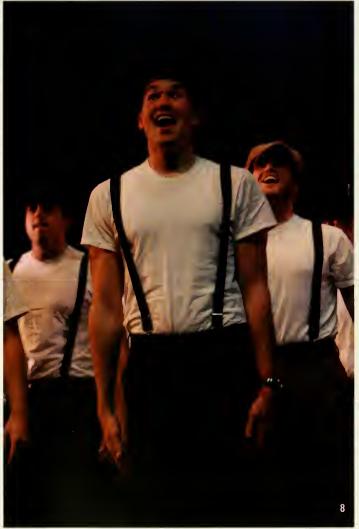
Story and Spread: Austin Richardson Photos: Nick Holdbrooks and Becky Ellenberger

Dudes-A-Plenty took the sweepstakes award for the second time in three years as well as audience favorite awards for best overall and best music. Zeta Tau Alpha women's sorority took first runner-up and won the award for best choreography, while men's fraternity Sigma Chi won for best costumes., Independent Ladies, took second runner-up and Alpha Omicron Pi women's sorority was recognized for best philanthropic support towards this years charity Birmingham AIDS Outreach.











7 Zeta Tau Alpha 8 Pi Kappa Phi

9 Dance Ensemble







10 Phi Mu

11 University Ministries

12 Independent Ladiesv

Spring Fling Returns to the Stage

by Lauren Steele
Photos and Spread: Austin Richardson

What do tasty wings, Trotline and tenacious bands all have in common? They were all activities incorporated into Samford's 2007 Spring Fling. In the past, participation has lacked, leaving SGA feeling concerned about how to change events so Samford students will get involved and enjoy the opportunities presented to them.

A branch of SGA called the Student Activities Council plans spring Fling, doing everything from the paperwork to renting out facilities to planning each event. The Spring Fling also had two main programmers from within SAC, Allyson Dewell and Lee Ross. They specifically came up with the events for each day while other SAC members helped them along in their process as they delegated work such as getting the PR out for an event.

After weeks of stressful nights and getting things together, Thursday, April 27 rolled around and the beautiful day set the stage for things to come. As students traditionally gathered around the fountain at lunchtime, they started to notice an unusual smell. After they looked around, they saw the delicious hot wings being put together on plates and ready to serve to students. All of a sudden, a huge line formed as students eagerly waited for their special lunch that day. Students who chose to eat wings also received a Spring Fling cup that included all the other scheduled events for the weekend.

Junior Geography major C.G. Covey said, "I was really excited and surprised about having something to eat other than the cafeteria food on a random Thursday afternoon; the wings were awesome and it was neat to get a cup with your wings as well."

Wing Fling was an instant hit which helped get the word out for the band on Friday night, the infamous Trotline. As the school week came to a close, people got their weekend plans together and rounded up friends to go see Trotline perform at Ben Brown Plaza. Trotline played the night away and covered several famous country songs while students enjoyed standing around the fountain and listening to the music.

Saturday was filled with activities, including huge inflatables set up in the quad for all of the afternoon. Everyone joined in the fun and enjoyed their "play day" along with several kids and their families within the Homewood community. After all the students left the quad, the Spring Fling committee cleaned up and got ready for the big annual event, the Battle of the Bands, which was located on the football field this year.

Battle of the Bands was a competition between several Samford student bands and has been a major hit in the past. All the students lined up and watched several bands perform while others simply listened to the music from their rooms because the sound carried to many of the dorms on campus. After all the bands performed, the winners were announced and Bobby Smith's band won the overall competition. The relaxed atmosphere at the event ended the weekend on a great note and proved for one of the greatest turnouts ever for Samford's Spring Fling.

Fun was had by all, whether one was enjoying hot wings before a long day of class or simply acting like a kid again while playing games on a relaxing Saturday afternoon. It was definitely a memorable weekend and has set the stage for Spring Fling's to come.





Climbing the inflatable rock wall was one of many things students could attempt.

Studying Abroad: Defining Who I Am

by Kimberly Holland Photo: Kimberly Holland Spread: Austin Richardson

After hugging my mother goodbye, handing her my cell phone and passing through security, I sat down in the plastic chairs of Huntsville's airport, took a deep breath and said to myself, "Well, here you go." I was on my way to London, to live and learn for three-and-a-half months with Samford's study abroad programs.

Two weeks before my departure, I was leaving the summer camp where I had spent eleven weeks working with girls and young women when my mother called to say there might be a problem with my flights to London. British police had arrested 8 men in connection with al-

leged plots to blow up airliners in route to the United States from Britain. It was turning the U.S./U.K. routes to chaos.

My heart sank. I had been convincing myself for weeks that I was capable of leaving behind my family, my friends and my support in order to travel 4,000 miles across the Atlantic Ocean to live, to grow up and to define myself. I found myself in awe of people who were able to give up months to travel to a country where they couldn't speak the language and had no support of any sort. Here I was worried about living in an English-speaking country, surrounded by 22 individuals who knew me, where I came from and what I was doing.

I still remember flying over the island country, looking down and seeing the small towns and the rolling green countryside. That little country ended up making the greatest impact on me and defining who I am more than I ever imagined.

Reality hits

On the Friday after we arrived, I closed the door to my room, number 11, sat down in my chair and looked around. Home. My home. This was it. A room that took 9 steps to cross in length and 4 in width, a house that was slightly younger than the country I had just left and a neighborhood who had more celebrities and millionaires than I'll ever meet in my life.

The next weekend, a group of us took off on our first trip outside London. We decided on England's Lake District, home to Beatrix Potter and some of the most beautiful landscape. We messed up our train tickets. A group of seven ended up on three separate trains, and our stop was in a city 30 km from our hostel. I wanted to go home.

On my way to Germany a few weeks later, the airline I was traveling with dropped me off in Switzerland and said they weren't taking us any further. Five hours by train from my destination, I set out by myself to get to my friends in Munich. I arrived at midnight, just as the city was shutting down. The taxi drivers didn't speak English, and I didn't speak German.

I was newly defined as an individual who could travel independently, mess up just about everything and be confident enough to fix it.



Learning lessons

While in London I interned with *Liberal Democrat News*, the official newspaper of the Liberal Democrats, Britain's third largest political party. I passed Westminster Abbey and the Houses of Parliament every single day on my way to my internship.

I often had to walk two blocks away to get to work when the police had the entire area blocked off for protestors or parades. On the opening day of Parliament, I walked through a sea of police, over 200, who were preventing a crowd of only 15 from getting out of hand.

Free papers are a blossoming phenomenon in London, or at least they were during our stay. A variety of free tabloid-style newspapers were released, and distributors stood on every street corner pressing the paper into hands of people passing by. They handed me a paper with the image of a dying President George W. Bush under which ran the subtitle, "George W. Bush 1946 – Tonight." Filmmakers were releasing a movie about the death of the American President, and as an American, I was taught that the world doesn't agree with us, and most places certainly aren't our friends anymore. The consequences of the war in Iraq are real, and not just in Iraq.

I went to Tunisia, a relatively tiny country in North Africa, during the two-week travel break at the end of the semester. As a Muslim country, Tunisia was the first place I had been outside of Western culture, and I was put into a situation where I was forced to learn more in a week than I learned in most of my life.

Everything was in Arabic or French. I was in a place where the only thing known about America was what is learned by watching television. Their way of life would seem antiquated to us, but in it, I found truth about misconceptions and misunderstandings.

I was newly defined as an individual who finally understood how big the world is, how real the world is and how drastically one tiny thing affects the entire world.

Coming home

In my final five days of being in London, I raced around the city that has grown to be my favorite place, seeing everything I hadn't had the chance to see.

I come from a small Alabama town that has little to offer in the way of excitement or history. London had both – history and excitement, and I found myself fully captivated by the capitol city.

It's the narrow roads and wide boulevards, the Tube and the taxis. It's the flower markets on every corner and the grocery stores that serve the freshest of foods, the excitement of the West End shows and the admiration for St. Paul's Cathedral and Westminster Abbey. The city completely captivated me. It would never have happened without this study abroad opportunity. Coming to Samford and not going to London is wasting your time and the resources you have at your disposal.

I think London is the greatest city, and my time there helped to define me and make me who I am, who I am becoming and who I will be.





Center Stage

by Rachel Bennett
Photos: Nick Holdbrooks
Spread: Austin Richardson

Fall 2006 was an exciting time full of drama, action and fun for the theater department. With such plays as *Restoreth My Soul*, *Electra* and *Feliciana Feydra le Roux* the crowd was never hard to please.

Restoreth My Soul and Electra, the first two plays of the 2006-2007 season, were both shown together, alternating each night for two weeks. This was decided because both plays had the similar message of war, aftermath and tragedy.

Almost everyone who has gone through cultural perspectives is familiar with the ancient Greek tragedy *Electra*, but no one was expecting this adaptation. Inspired by a real war in Bosnia, this *Electra* was somewhat updated with the characters appearing from recent and currently ongoing wars around the world.

Jessica Barton, junior history major and chorus member in the play, said, "Our director, Mark Castle, really wanted to show the audience that the themes of revenge, guilt and murder are just as evident today as they were two-thousand years ago."

On the opposite night of performances was *Restoreth My Soul*, a play written by Samford theater professor Renee Butcher. In contrast to the ancient tragedy of *Electra*, *Restoreth My Soul* took a look at how people deal with grief now. The drama takes place around the lives of a young couple in New York five years after 9/11.

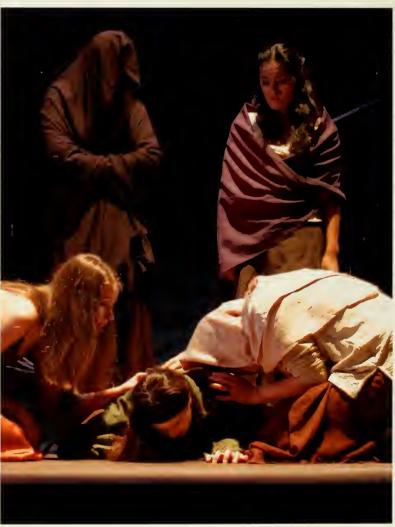
Katherine Upchurch, one of the many voices in *Restoreth*, said, "Much of the dialogue was taken from real phone calls from 9/11 victims or their family members" and that the play "was very informative and I'm sure it was very moving for others as well." Cast members said that the play was so depressing and draining to perform and practice that Butcher had everyone play a game or do an activity of some sort together after each session to get their energy back.

After two such dramatic and intense shows happening at once, it was a change of pace for the theater department to do such a light-hearted play as *Feliciana Feydra le Roux*, an adaptation of the books written by Tynia Thomassie. The

story follows *Feliciana*, a Cajun girl growing up in southern Louisiana, through her adventures. Actors and actresses were allowed to improvise in this zany work and did so often, creating more interest to the scenes. Also, cast members had to somehow obtain a Cajun accent to perform the play.

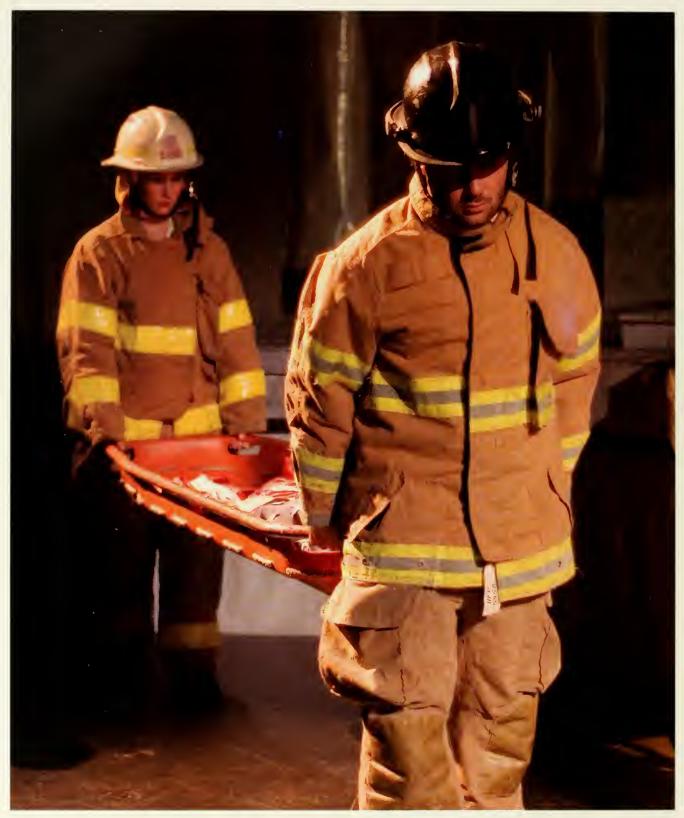
Originally, Feliciana Feydra le Roux targeted children and was performed for them. But outdoing expectations, each night the show sold out to more adult audiences and was very well received.

After such an exciting and dramatic fall season showing, audiences could only wait and hope for the arrival of spring when *Noises Off* and *Company* made their debuts.



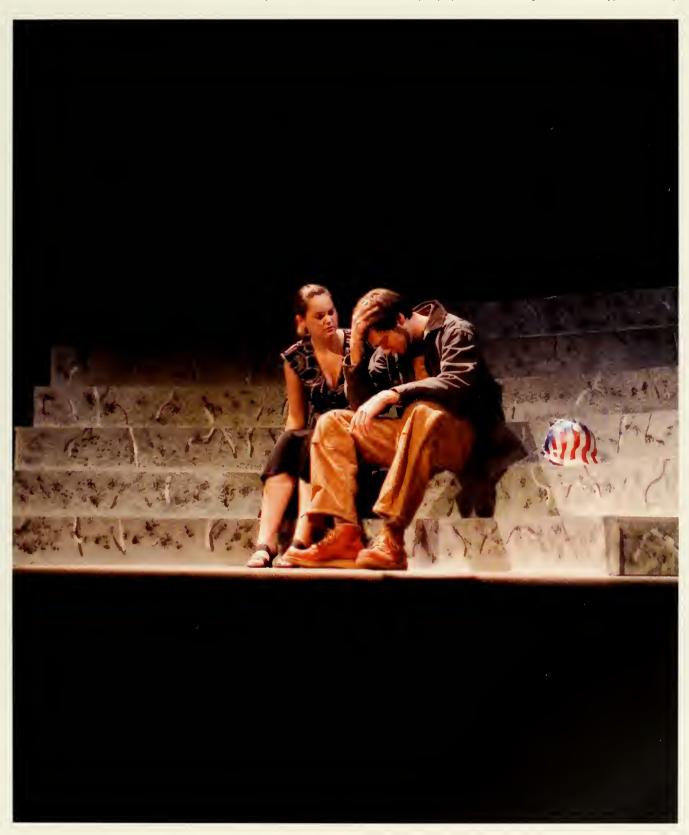
The actors of *Electra* portrayed "that the themes of revenge, guilt and murder are just as evident today as they were two-thousand years ago."





Junior Theater Majors Neal Tucker and Katherine Upchurch portray two of the firemen during the September 11th attacks.

Junior Theater Majors Natalie Saxon and Matt Godfrey display the emotional tragedies of what happened that day.





 $Samford's\ Theater\ Department\ displays\ their\ rendition\ of\ Tynia\ Thomassie's\ \textit{Feliciana}\ \textit{Feydre}\ \textit{Le}\ \textit{Roux}.$



Noises Off

by Taylor Marie Kardoes Photos: Nick Holdbrooks Spread: Austin Richardson

The Samford Theater Department presented *Noises Off* March 1 through March 4. This comedy centered on a play within a play. The characters were all part of the cast or production for the play within the play, *Nothing On.* In the first of three acts, the characters ran through a dress rehearsal. The second act allowed the audience a peek at the tangled lives of the characters as they interacted with one another back stage. The play concluded as the audience watched the characters perform the play within the play, *Nothing On.* The play depicted how the characters' lives off stage affected their performances on stage.

This play was difficult to perform. It required physically demanding performances of the actors. Most roles called for fast lines and movements. Actors had to speak while running up and down stairs. They quickly entered and exited the stage. Some scenes involved one actor slamming the door on another actor. The set for this performance had to be extremely sturdy to withstand all the running, pounding and slamming of doors.

Rehearsals were held for approximately three hours each day throughout February. All of these physically strenuous activities required extra rehearsals to build stamina and perfect timing.

Auditions for this production were held in December. Many roles were double cast. One actor would perform Thursday and Friday's shows, while the second would perform Saturday and Sunday's shows. This provided more actors an opportunity to perform. It also provided a back up plan in case an actor was injured because of this show's physical demands.

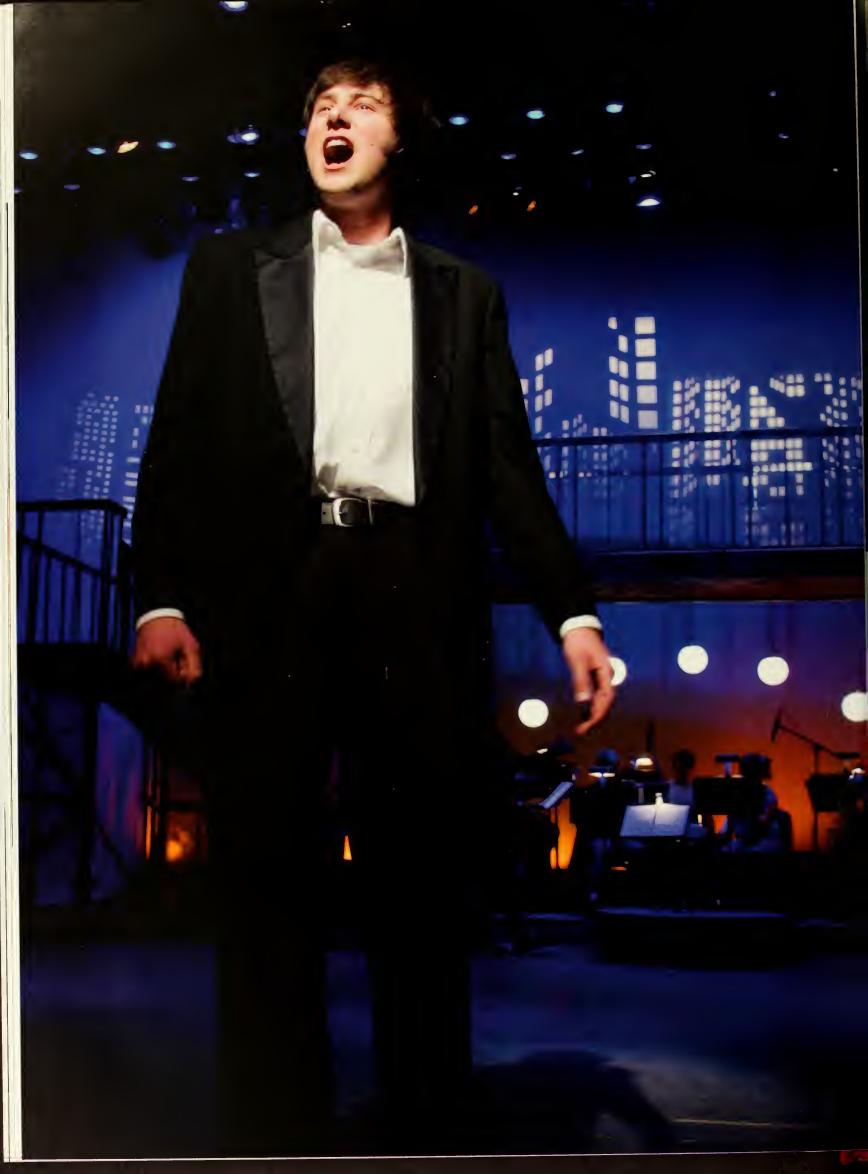
This play was extremely complex and required impeccable timing on the part of everyone involved. During many scenes, actors performed minor actions off to the side of the stage while the main action occurred center stage. This required actors to block out all distractions and time both scenes together. The fast pace paired with the physicality of the play added to the complex timing issues.

The attention to detail and amazing performance of the actors made this play such a success. The characters maintained their fast pace throughout the play. Their accents and little gestures polished the script. During the dress rehearsal scene, the director of the play within the play critiqued the characters off stage from the audience. This resulted in the audience feeling more immersed in the show, as if viewing an actual dress rehearsal. The lines were filled with sarcasm and wit. The audiences laughed through the entire performance.

The cast did an amazing job performing such a difficult play. They thoroughly entertained the audience and mastered the fast paced, strictly timed, physical roles. With the successful performance of this play, the Samford Theater Department has set the bar high for future shows. *Noises Off* Director, Dr. Don Sandley, said, "*Noises Off* has been called the funniest play of the last half century by theatre critics. It is considered a major work of farce comedy and a company's ability to pull a show this complex off is a measuring stick of that company's stature."









by Rachel Bennett
Photos: Nick Holdbrooks, Lighting Design: Bill Camp
Spread Nick Holdbrooks and Austin Richardson

What makes a perfect relationship? The little things you do together with company of course! One of the highlights of the spring semester was the musical *Company*, a story of a womanizing, 35-year-old bachelor in Manhattan who finds himself feeling the pressures of "settling down" from his neighbors and friends.

After months of practice and rehearsal, the cast of *Company* performed to a packed house on opening night, April 19th. Lively antics on stage definitely kept the audience on their toes. Some of these included lengthy and random dance numbers in which poor Bobby, played by Matt Godfrey, tried to play it cool as he watched his friends cavort around the stage, not sure whether he wanted to join in or not.

Aside from the humorous and somewhat awkward repetition of the word "Bobby," several rampant awkward situations throughout the story, and the frantic yet funny doting of the various characters on Bobby and his personal life, the

musical tends to have a more serious tone. It portrays the ups and downs of common marital relations and how people learn to get along with each other. The message is that everyone needs someone to share every part of their lives with, whether it is the mundane everyday stuff or life-changing events. Each equally defines our lives.

And so, escapades of hooking Bobby up with different women and Bobby trying to find that perfect woman yet run away from the prospect of marriage at the same time ensue. Awkwardness plays a main role in the humor of this musical as Bobby finds himself in strange situations with each of the couples that comprise his friends. He gets high with David and Jenny, played by Andrew Westover and Lydia Myers, he envies Peter and Susan's, Jordan Bondurant and Haley Longino, closeness only to find out they are getting a divorce, and he watches Harry and Sarah, Bobby Smith and Samantha Chambers, try karate out on each other trying to make the other say uncle. But as the first few scenes of the musical show, that's company!

Reflexions

by Cathy Reisenwitz and Jessica Casto Photos: Nick Holdbrooks Spread: Austin Richardson

The spring *Reflexions* dance production combined the efforts of Samford's theater and dance classes to produce a student led, student produced, dance show.

While the show consisted of mostly jazz numbers, it also included dance genres such as ballet, hip hop and tap. All numbers but the opening and closing were choreographed by the students. Lisa Gibbs, who teaches all the dance classes, choreographed the opening number with a song by Madonna. It featured everyone who was to dance in the show.

Reflexions marked a new era for Samford. It was the first semester Samford offered a dance minor. However, to participate in the show, students did not have to be a theater major or dance minor. Tryouts for the parts were held right before Christmas break.

The majority of the lighting for the show was designed by the students of the Theater Lighting Design class, with each member designing the lighting for two numbers. The lighting for the opening number was designed by junior Barbara Cline, who teaches the lighting course.

The color of lighting played a major role throughout *Reflexions*. Darker songs were represented by black, red and

white color schemes while the ballets displayed more purples, blues and pinks. Several of the more upbeat performances also featured strobe lights.

Surprisingly, there were five guys who participated in the show. One of them even performed ballet. Some of the dances were all male, some all female and some were co-ed. One of the all-guy dances was "Don't Stop Me Now." The all girl dance was a ballet number.

Brooke Williams, a junior JMC major and theater minor, helped out with the lighting and really enjoyed seeing the show. "The dances were really fun, especially the all guys number," said Williams. "The ballet was also beautiful and very graceful. They showed the Broadway style by doing 'I'm the King of New York' and 'I Love You I Do,' a guy and a girl number; it was funny."

Other routines throughout the show included a tap dance to Gnarles Barkley's "Crazy," a performance to Gwen Stefani's "Wind it Up," and an outstanding finale which ended the production with a song by Ok Go.





Mudbugs and Baseball

by Rachael Lamb Photos: Becky Ellenberger Spread: Austin Richardson

Each year, there is a time when students journey down to Joe Lee Griffin field in their spring attire and fresh tans from spring break to eat seafood and watch the baseball team take on another rival from the OVC.

The event, sponsored by the Panhellenic Council, the Interfraternity Council and SGA, hosted over 1,300 people this year, doubling last year's attendance.

Junior history and religion major and IFC president Rob Howell, along with sophomore accounting major and IFC representative Parker Gilbert, helped organize the event.

"It was more popular this year than it was last year," Gilbert said, "and it's a great way to bring Greeks and independents together." Howell also said this year's Crawfish Boil was quite a success

"Although there was a slight wait for food for most people, fortunately, there was plenty of crawfish for everyone. It seems to be one of the most successful events on campus," Howell said.

Charles Caldwell, a sixth grader from McElwain Elementary, threw the first pitch. He is a cancer patient and one of the students that participates in tutoring at McElwain.

"Despite his cancer and treatment, when I met him before the game he told me that he'd been practicing," Howell said. "Having Charles throw out the first pitch should be inspiring to us all."

Junior French major and PHC officer Bekah Corley said the food is what makes it fun for everyone.

"It's a really nice way for girls to get together and chill out and get their hands dirty,"

Corley said.

The Crawfish Boil encouraged students to stick around and watch the baseball game after they finished eating.

"It's fun seeing many students come to the games. Normally there aren't that many that come out to watch," junior outfielder and biology major John Morgan said. "It creates a better atmosphere and helps us to perform better. It's definitely easier to get pumped up when there is more fan support."

The need to improve students' support for Samford athletics has been a major concern among the years. However, many agree Crawfish Boil has been helpful in supporting Samford sports.

"I believe the Crawfish Boil is one of the most extraordinary social events on campus," business and Spanish major, and IFC representative Hamlin Caldwell said. "It brings together many groups of people, while also raising support for athletes."

Ike Baker, a senior biology major also involved with IFC, said that he agrees with the need to support Samford athletics.

"Besides Miss Samford and Step Sing, the Crawfish Boil has had the most students involved this year," Baker said. "It gets students into sports at Samford, which is the main goal of the event."

Senior biology major Michael Dove said the Crawfish Boil has a great atmosphere that is enjoyed by students.

"There's nothing like enjoying America's favorite pastime while sweating over live seafood you have to tear apart with your own hands," Dove said.

To some students, the Crawfish Boil has even changed their experience at Samford.

"The Crawfish Boil marked the pinnacle of my educational career." junior biology major Nate Stenstrom said. "The food was warm, the girls were beautiful and the baseball was all-American. God bless capitalism."





Reveal

Outside the Samford "Bubble" is a whole world of issues and events that comprise the news everyday. From politics to celebrities, Samford students reveal what's important to them and why.



Year In Review

by: Kimberly Holland Photos: Associated Press Spread: Austin Richardson

August

10 – British police arrested 24 suspects in a suspected plot to blow up jetliners bound to the United States from Britain.

September

11 – The United States remembered the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, five years after planes flew into the World Trade Center towers, the Pentagon and a field in Shanksville, Penn.

October

2 – A truck driver barricaded himself in a one-room Amish schoolhouse, killed five girls execution-style and critically wounded six others before killing himself.

26 – President Bush signed a bill authorizing the construction of a 700-mile fence on the U.S./Mexico border. The fence is meant to protect one-third of the 2,100-mile border between the two countries.

November

7 – Democrats gained seats in both the Senate and the House of Representatives to take control of the U.S. Congress during mid-term elections.

8 – Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld stepped down after serving six years. His resignation came one day after midterm elections cost Republicans seats in both the Senate and the House as voters showed opposition to the course in the Iraq war. Robert Gates was named Rumsfelds' replacement.

December

19 – Miss USA Tara Conner was sent to rehab after rumors of underage drinking and sexual promiscuity made headlines. Real estate mogul and beauty pageant owner Donald Trump held a press conference to announce Miss USA Tara Conner would be given a second chance.

25 – Legendary R&B singer James Brown died. The 73-year-old released hits like "I Got You (I Feel Good)" and "Papa's Got a Brand New Bag" during his career.

26 – Former President Gerald Ford died at the age of 93.

January

4 – Rep. Nancy Pelosi (D-Cal.) became the first female Speaker of the House

12 – Two Missouri boys, one missing since 2002, were found alive in a Kirkwood. Mo, apartment. Shawn Hornbeck had been seen last riding his bike to a friend's house in October 2002. Ben Ownby had been missing for five days prior to the two boys being found.

16 – The perjury trial of Lewis "Scooter" Libby began. Libby was accused of releasing the name of CIA operative Valerie Plame to journalists. A jury found Libby guilty on March 6.

26 – Gen. David Petraeus was confirmed as the commander of the Multinational Force Iraq. In his new position, Petraeus became responsible for overseeing all the forces in Iraq and carrying out the new Iraqi strategy plan outlined by President Bush during his State of the Union address January 23.

29 – Miss Alabama and former Miss Samford Melinda Toole was named Miss Congeniality during Miss America 2007.

February

1 – The world's largest publicly traded oil company, Exxon Mobil Corp., posted the largest revenue by a U.S. company at \$377.64 billion. The 2006 revenue topped their own previous record of \$370.68 billion in 2005.

7 – An arctic blast swept across the northern United States, bringing over 100 inches of snow to part of New England and the Midwest.

8 – Model and actress Anna Nicole Smith died of an accidental drug overdose in her Florida hotel room. Her death and the court hearing regarding the paternity of an infant daughter created a media storm. Smith's former boyfriend Larry Birkhead was named the father in April.

17 – After entering a drug rehabilitation facility in Antigua and staying less than 24 hours, Britney Spears showed up at a hair studio in Tarzana, Calif. and shaved off her own hair. Her personal struggles became big news in the tabloid media as Spears and ex-husband Kevin Federline fought for custody of their two children.



March

2 – A Bluffton University bus, carrying the school's base-ball team, tumbled onto an Atlanta highway after crashing over an overpass bridge. The team was en route to a tournament in Florida. Four students, the bus driver and his wife were killed in the early morning accident.

April

4 – Prospective presidential candidates announced record amounts during their first quarter of fundraising. Democratic presidential hopefuls Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama raised \$36 million and \$24.8 million respectively, the most announced by any of the campaigns.

- 11 The North Carolina attorney general announced three former Duke University lacrosse players who had been accused of raping a stripper during a party were innocent, and all charges were dropped.
- 16 A gunman killed 32 students and faculty before killing himself on the Virginia Tech campus.
- 26 The Senate passed a war-funding bill that set a deadline for withdrawal of U.S. troops in Iraq.

May

1 – President Bush used his veto powers for only the second time during his terms in office. He vetoed the warfunding bill that set an April 2008 withdrawal deadline of U.S. troops from Iraq.



Westmoreland's First Address

by Susan Neal Williams
Photos & Spread: Nick Holdbrooks

Andrew Westmoreland, Samford's new president, gave his first address to the students at University Convocation on Tuesday, August 29. While he was dressed formally in ceremonial robes, Westmoreland's speech made him seem approachable and friendly. He expressed his newfound love for Samford and its community.

In some of his opening statements, Westmoreland made it a point to show his gratitude to all those who have contributed to Samford and who have made it the fine university it is today. He asked the student body to stand and applaud the faculty for their essential role in shaping the happenings on campus. He then went on to the President Emeritus, Dr. Thomas Corts, thanking him by saying that we at Samford are all the "beneficiaries of his work." Finally, Westmoreland expressed his appreciation to his own wife for bringing him happiness and support.

To lighten the sometimes serious mood that a "mandatory" University Convocation can bring, Westmoreland joked about his ceremonial garb and the "gold necklace, reminiscent of Mr. T" that he then referred to as "bling." He probably won over the hearts of many students with that comment as he showed that even a university president can have a sense of humor.

Following the joke, Westmoreland continued by giving a brief biographical sketch of himself. Born in Arkansas to a financially unstable family, he learned to support himself at a young age. He recognizes that he is a sinner and is extremely thankful for the courageous God who saved him. He also expressed his belief in Samford and in each one of us.

Westmoreland's main comments were based on the fourth chapter of Second Timothy. The text contains Paul's plea to Timothy to come and be with him before winter. This plea shows that while Paul was a man of incredible stature, he also had weak moments when he needed someone to help and comfort him.

Westmoreland explained that this passage is also applicable as a plea to us, the Samford community. It is an appeal that comes from people in the world who are in need, and they need our

help now. Westmoreland stressed the point that we cannot wait as "the saddest stories ever told are those of actions that came too late."

Westmoreland closed by challenging Samford as a whole to be real by upholding certain characteristics. We should be honest and trustworthy, appreciative and aware of relationships, thankful for what God has blessed us with and active by "loving, growing and serving as Christ taught us."



Above: Dr. Westmoreland displays his parting gift given to him from Ouachita Baptist University

The Westmoreland Era



by Taylor Marie Kardoes Photos & Spread: Nick Holdbrooks

Inauguration activities began Friday,
October 20 with an Evensong worship service.
Throughout the following weeks lectures,
luncheons, forums and theatrical performances
were held to celebrate Dr. Andrew Westmoreland's inauguration as Samford University's
eighteenth president.

The day of the inauguration, tents decorated the university quadrangle and students lined Centennial Walk holding flags. Selected students marched in a processional and carried flags representing each state and the District of Columbia along with various countries where Samford students and alumni currently reside. The Inaugural Ceremony began at ten o'clock the morning of November 2, 2006.

Samford administrators, trustees, faculty, staff, alumni and students gathered with members of the Birmingham community to welcome and celebrate with Dr. Westmoreland and his family. Marshals led the University's faculty, student representatives, trustees, administrators and the presidential party in a processional. At the close of the procession, the academic banners rose onstage and all stood to sing the National Anthem. Henry Cox, President of the Alabama Baptist State Convention, led the invocation and commented on the day's "significance in the life of Samford University."

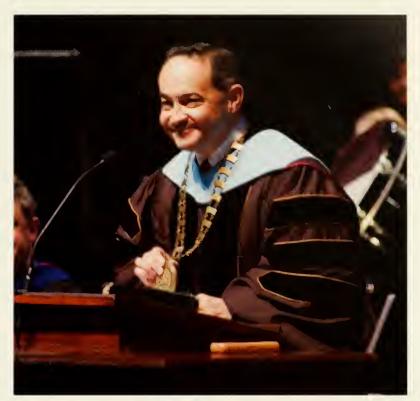
The ceremony marked only the fourth inauguration of a new Samford president in over seventy years. John Duren, Chair of the Board of Overseers, shared scripture from Romans 12:3-10. Following the reading of scripture, the Samford Choral Union performed several anthems and hymns. Dr. Westmoreland was then greeted by faculty, staff, students, alumni and community representatives.

The inaugural ceremony continued with a congregational hymn followed by the Oath of Office and Investiture. Dr. Westmoreland was joined on stage by his wife, Jeanna, and daughter, Riley, as he was sworn into office. President Emeritus, Dr. Thomas Corts presented the Presidential Medallion to Dr. Westmoreland as the audience rose to their feet, affirming Dr.

Westmoreland as president with thunderous applause. In his inaugural address, Dr. Westmoreland vowed to serve Samford University wholeheartedly and always remain true to its motto, For God, For Learning, Forever.

After the benediction, the ceremony came to a close as all joined together to sing the Samford Alma Mater. The final words rang through Wright Auditorium, "With pride we pledge our hearts and minds, to the Samford red and blue," bringing the inauguration ceremony to a fitting close. Following the inauguration, students, alumni, faculty, staff and guests gathered on the quadrangle for Milo's sweet tea and moonpies to celebrate. Festivities continued throughout the day. To close inaugural events, the Student Government Association hosted an Inaugural Ball in honor of the Westmorelands and to commemorate the special day in Samford's history.

For the ball, Seibert Gym was transformed into an elegant hall with a dance floor, blue carpets and chocolate fountains. The entryway was lined with pictures of Samford's former presidents. President Westmoreland and his wife shared the second dance as all other guests lined the dance floor to watch. The Inaugural Ball provided the perfect close to the week's celebration of Dr. Andrew Westmoreland's inauguration as Samford University's eighteenth president. More importantly, the inaugural ball represented the beginning of a new era at Samford. As we enter the Westmoreland Era, Samford students, alumni and the community all share in the confident expectation of great things for the Samford family under the direction of an exceptional Christian leader.





LEFT: Dr. Corts passes the Presidential Medallion to Dr. Westmoreland during the ceremony. TOP: "Thanks for the bling."

BOTTOM: Dr. Westmoreland escorts his wife to the first dance at the Inaugural Ball.



A Mother's Mission

by Elizabeth Hunt Photo: Nick Holdbrooks Spread: Austin Richardson

By 6:45 P.M., students had already begun to form a line anxious to enter Reid Chapel for a program that wouldn't begin until 7:30 p.m. What could possibly draw such a crowd on a Monday night? The line of Samford students, faculty, administration, the Birmingham News and other citizens from the Birmingham community were all there to see Beth Holloway Twitty.

Beth Holloway Twitty is the mother of Natalee Holloway, the Mountain Brook teenager who disappeared in Aruba two summers ago while on a senior trip. As Reid Chapel was rapidly filling up, the aura of the room was respectful yet anxious to finally get to hear the personal account from Mrs. Twitty, not a brief synopsis from CNN or FOX. Prior to Twitty's arrival at the podium, the audience watched about a three minute video dedicated to the life of Natalee, the search in Aruba and the Birmingham communities' response to the kidnapping. The video was followed by an equally compelling description of the past two years without Natalee by Twitty.

Beth Holloway Twitty described where she was on that Memorial Day in 2005 when she got the phone call from the travel agent saying that Natalee did not make it onto the plane heading back for the States with the rest of her classmates. Immediately, Twitty said that she knew something was wrong. "It was more than mother's intuition" she recalled. Immediately, Twitty and her husband were on a plane headed to Aruba, and for the first 118 hours of Natalee's disappearance, Beth Holloway Twitty did not eat, sleep, or shower. Twitty continued to describe the painful weeks and months that followed that dreaded Memorial Day.

However, though a tragic event, Beth Holloway Twitty has responded with hope and established the International Safe Travels Foundation. The International Safe Travels Foundation or "Safe Travels" has a goal of informing high school and college students about means of safety while traveling. One way Beth is promoting "Safe Travels" is by going to different churches, schools and organizations and telling her story and message. As a result, all those who had the honor of hearing Beth Holloway Twitty speak that night left with a positive message and sound advice which is the result of a strong, faith-based woman who has the courage to share.

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1 Politics and Religion: Wide Open

World Issues Exposed

by Danielle McDonald Photos: Nick Holdbrooks Spread: Austin Richardson

A new Samford publication merged political and religious views this year, illustrating the diverse plethora of stances on issues occurring in the world. Students took on a project in which they collaborated their opinions, writing abilities and illustrative talents to create a 20-page feature for the *Crimson* called "*Exposed*."

Senior journalism and mass communication major Kimberly Holland was the editor of *Exposed*. She was an active part of the journalism program for four years and helped to organize the new publication in the spring.

As a writer for the Crimson, Holland often discussed political matters in her articles and has been active in promoting politically oriented articles. She is frequently responsible for bringing current affairs to the table for discussion, as she does not shy away from controversial topics that hover over Samford's community.

As the 2008 Presidential primaries are approaching and politics is fresh on everyone's mind, Holland wrote to readers on the first page of Exposed and laid the foundation for the feature

She wrote, "As the generation who will decide the future of our country and its role in the world, it is our duty to be aware and active. For this reason, *The Samford Crimson* has provided this special news magazine featuring some of the political issues and presidential candidates you will be focusing on in the coming months."

Holland brought her ideas to the section editors, and the two sides worked out *Exposed*'s purpose and potential.

She said, "I came up with a couple of ideas for the insert but chose politics and religion because I thought it would be good to discuss different issues and how they relate to Samford. I could not have done it without my section editors. They really helped me narrow my ideas and centralize stories."

The staff wanted to create something that would be thought provoking and relevant on Samford's campus in political and religious spheres. Stem cell research, education, social security and prospective presidents were a few of the issues incorporated within the publication. Each section displayed a variety of opinions and informative facts about the matters.

Junior history major Caroline Williams said, "I was really interested when I picked up the publication. I think they really discussed topics students care about, and I felt like all sides of the arguments were being shown. It is refreshing to see something different in the school newspaper."

Holland said, "Students at Samford are much more open than we give them credit for. We attempted to present all sides. If we were going to present the left, then we were going to display the right; if there was one opinion, there was an opposing one. We worked for balance on all angles."

It is clearly impossible to present every angle on each controversial issue, but the writers strived to educate the readers about important debates occurring beyond the gates of Samford. Although the publication was 20 pages, Holland says they still ran out of room and could have written much more.

The response to the insert was generally positive. Emails were sent in from students and professors alike, stating they appreciated the issue and hoped to see it again.

Freshmen music major, Christina Gonzalez, said, "I thought it was a great idea and would like to see it develop more over the years."

"Exposed" invoked discussion on campus and got students thinking about current events and affairs that are occurring today.

Holland and the section editors wished to inform, and that they did. The feature paves the groundwork for the upcoming election year and allows students to be expressive on matters that are affecting our nation.

Construction On Campus

by Brian Willett Photo: Becky Ellenberger Spread: Austin Richardson

You pull onto Samford's campus and turn left. In front of you is no longer the decades-old Student Apartment complex, but a new Beeson Woods living area.

That's one of the many campus improvements Samford's administration has studied for the next five to ten years of the university's future. In addition to the physical improvements, Samford has also looked to increase enrollment. But what exactly will Samford look like in the future? Will the university change as it grows?

Several ideas have already come to fruition. Samford installed synthetic turf on the football field in 2005. Jane Hollock Brock Hall, the recital hall, opened in fall of 2006. New heating and cooling plants have been built in 2005 and 2006. However, several projects are still works in progress.

Samford University President Andrew Westmoreland said that he hopes the new sports arena will open in December of 2007. Work on the tennis facility continues to progress, while Construction on the new parking deck in the north of campus could begin as early as August 2007.



Westmoreland said that Samford has about all it can handle in terms of construction, which likely means new projects will not begin until the current ones are completed. "We are about at the maximum for construction," he said. "This year is primarily a time of finishing what we started."

Vice President of Business Affiars Bill Mathews said the area around Student Apartments, known as Odum Lane, might be the next major project. This area would most likely become a complement to Beeson Woods. "That residential area has a lot of potential, but it has to happen soon," Mathews said.

Westmoreland also discussed the Odum Lane area. "I'm an advocate of a Samford village along the lines of Beeson Woods, but not exactly the same," he said. "The area is a good target for renewal."

One catch could be the Odum Lane property that Samford does not yet own. Some Homewood residents have not sold their land, which will likely hinder any building plans in that area. The new residential area would help alleviate some

pressure from the rest of the campus. This would also justify an increased enrollment; a problem for some who might worry that Samford will lose its identity.

Will Samford change in the future? Assistant to the president Sarah Latham said Samford will still draw from the Southeast. She also stated that Samford's sense of community has to be retained. "Regardless of whether we grow or how much, one thing we have going for us is the Samford community," she said.

Westmoreland said Samford's community will not change simply because more people attend. "I do not want to change the essential character of the university," he said. "We need to create an environment conducive to the Samford community.



Christian on Campus

by Melissa Gibson Photo: Becky Ellenberger Spread: Austin Richardson

I like to think of Samford as a catalyst for change and growth. As a Christian University, Samford's primary responsibility is to provide its students with challenges to our faith through our education. As I think back over this year, I reflect upon the Christians I've met and the opportunities I had to grow and learn. I interviewed Ryan Spencer Reed, a photographer of African devastation. His primary goal is to raise awareness for a people that are so close to his heart. As I looked at his pictures on display in the library, I thought a lot about Jesus. I stopped short before the dark wrinkled hands missing a finger and I saw Jesus. I saw pain, past and present, but beauty first and foremost.

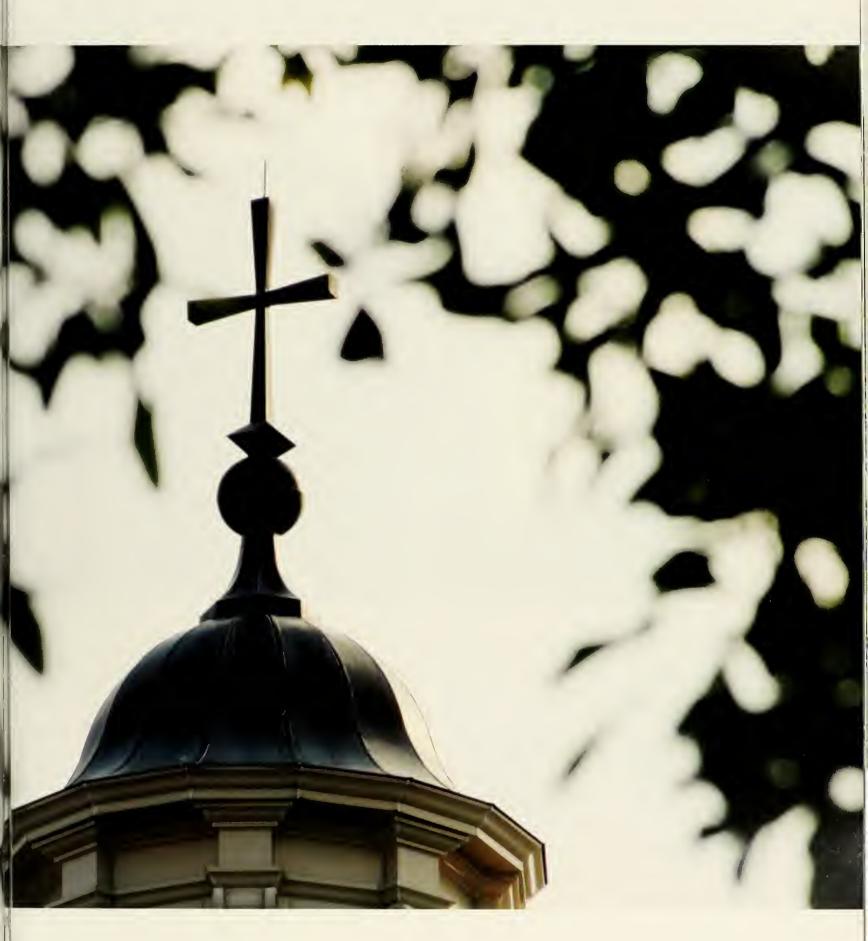
I also sat in on an interview with Shane Claiborne. I had learned to appreciate his simplicity through the words in his book *Irresistible Revolution*, but they formed a new meaning hearing him speak. I was impressed by his interest in us. He informed us of his aspirations and journey but he also took time to remember our names and genuinely inquire of our lives at Samford. He reminded me that we are all equal and dwell in a rich community of brotherhood.

I met these two inspirational men through opportunities with Samford but people who aspire to do similar things walk with me on the sidewalk everyday. I see Jesus at Samford daily. He's in the excitement expressed when we discuss justice late into the night. I saw Jesus at the Justice Under the Lights Concert; He was there as the Wordplayers related stories of injustice and as the bands rocked out. I saw Jesus at the InvisibleChildren dodge ball tournaments. I saw Jesus at the Hope4Hunger tables and in the recycling movement. I see His smile in the caf. Workers and I see Him constantly talking to the man who rings the bells. I watch Him at work through our professors, desiring to make us grow in knowledge.

I saw Jesus when SoulForce came to campus. I was extremely impressed by their eloquence and passion for love and equality. I saw Jesus in their eyes as they listened to me wonder if their very being is a sin. I felt them really hug me and really love me. But not only did I see Jesus in them, I saw Jesus in us. I saw students engaging in constructive dialogue. I saw people everywhere actually listening. No one chastised them or spoke negatively; I consistently saw acceptance and grace. I saw Jesus through SoulForces' past pain but present joy.

I think being a Christian on campus is influenced by the presence of Jesus. I think by constructing such a multifaceted orthodoxy that perhaps, I see Him most clearly. I think by discussing Him with my Methodist friends and my Episcopal teacher that I am closest to truth. I think being a Christian at Samford challenges our current status. I don't want to simply be labeled "Christian." I don't want that for Samford. Instead, I think along with those we admire, we should continue pursuing a challenging faith that daily contributes to the beautiful image of Jesus.





Samford, Meet SoulForce

by Andrew Westover Photos: Bob Miller Spread Austin Richardson



Near the end of March, approximately two-dozen students came to Samford with one purpose – to promote "the end of religion based oppression for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people," according to SoulForce group leader Katie Higgins.

SoulForce began planning their visit months in advance, first contacting Samford President Dr. Andrew Westmoreland in writing last fall. The group stated that because of Samford's prohibition of "homosexual acts" in its official handbook, the university was deemed a worthy candidate for their visit.

After receiving notice of the group's intentions, West-moreland consulted local pastors, senior staffers and even presidents of other universities SoulForce visited last year for guidance. Soon thereafter, Westmoreland appointed University Minister Matt Kerlin to serve as the official liaison between SoulForce and the University.

According to Kerlin, "Planning for the SoulForce visit was extensive. I researched almost every school that SoulForce visited during last year's Equality Ride in order to formulate strategies for their visit to Samford." In addition, planning required synchronicity between University Relations, Campus Security, President Westmoreland and student hosts.

Alumni and parents were particularly responsive to SoulForce's visit, both positively and negatively. Several felt strongly enough to write letters to the *Crimson*.

The first letter came from a parent, Lon Pearson. Pearson stated that he "would question the wisdom" of allowing the group on campus. Pearson said his foremost concern was that opening the door to "people of a homosexual bent" was implying tacit acceptance, and that dialogue would merely offer unnecessary "credibility and offer to these the opportunity for rationalization and justification for their perversion."

This letter generated several responses. Student Rachel Corr called for the response to SoulForce to be love instead. Michael Yates took umbrage at Pearson representing his views as those of all Samford students, and argued against Pearson's view that SoulForce was so entrenched in their views that ministry would be futile.

Discussion had begun, and it continued through a series of student and faculty discussions.

In addition to buzzing around Samford's campus, several organized events also provided students with the opportunity to discuss the upcoming SoulForce visit in a public forum. Psychology Department Chair Dr. Stephen Chew organized two panels, one of students and one of faculty, to discuss "understanding homosexuality."

Coinciding with the panels, Dr. Nicole Siegfried led chapel the day before the SoulForce visit with a discussion of "common myths" about homosexuality.

Junior Psychology major Lyndsay Cogdill says, "Dr. Siegfried was great...it was a good speech, and really interesting. I think it was eye-opening for a lot of people, and it really made me think about some aspects of homosexuality I hadn't before."

The next day, SoulForce arrived promptly at 10 a.m. In order to facilitate discussion, Kerlin organized a series of activities throughout the day. After the group's arrival, a group of students met them and each SoulForce team member was paired with a Samford student.

After this initial meeting, the whole group moved to Brock Forum, where an introductory discussion took place.

Sophomore Psychology major Haley Heckman, one of the student hosts during the visit, says that she appreciated, "the



positive conversation. I think it went as best as it could go. Even though we had our differences in opinions, both groups were open to hearing what the other had to say."

A special lunch was held in the Flag Colonnade where interested students could come and chat informally with the SoulForce team members. According to freshman English Education major Megan Riley, "It was challenging to defend my views face-to-face, but it was good."

After lunch, the group split in half for two separate panel discussions, one regarding law and the other ministry, each as they relate to homosexuality.

Erin Basden, a freshman Elementary Education major, attended the Ministry and Homosexuality panel presentation. "It was interesting to hear the personal stories. It was good that they were open to hear other's opinions, but it was almost like they were saying, 'I'll listen but won't change my

mind.' Still, they were at least open to hearing, which I really appreciated."

After the day was over, SoulForce team member Stephen Krebs was pleased with the outcome. "I think that we were able to have some genuine dialogue. I'm glad that we were able to have these discussions, and I thank you for making us feel welcome to share our views."

He continued to say, "Our reception at most of the other schools we've visited has not been like this...this has been a breath of fresh air for us."

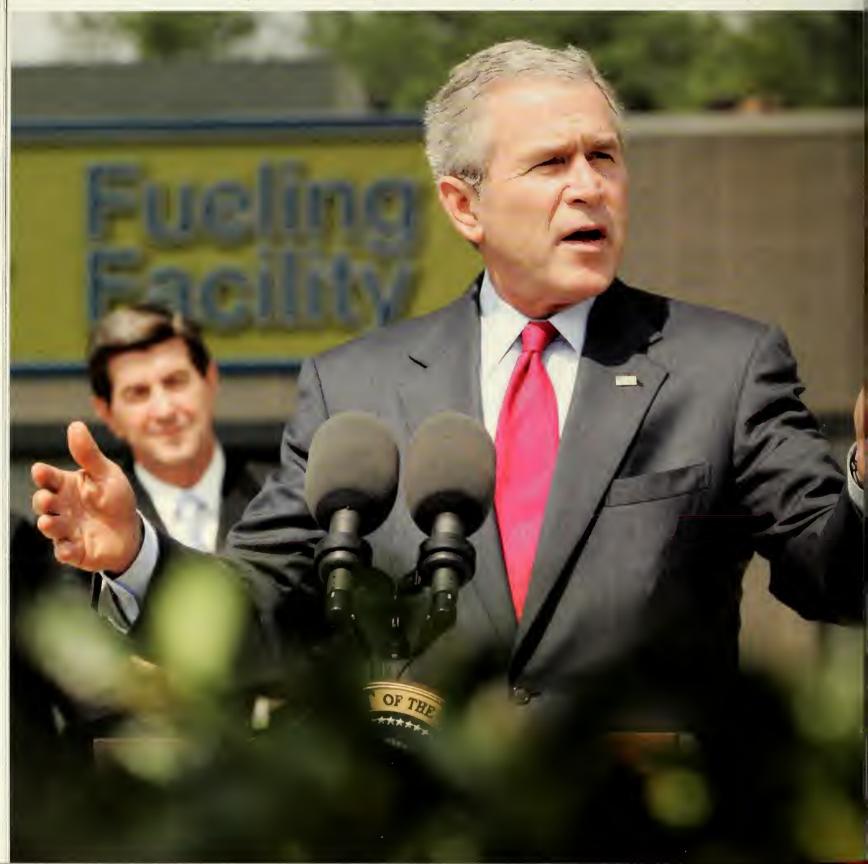
"Overall," says Erin Bradford, a sophomore Spanish and Arabic double major, "They [the SoulForce members] were mature and respectful. They weren't radicals, they were just people. It was a good experience to pop the Samford bubble."

President Bush makes a stop in the Magic City

by Shelby Crowe Photo: Associated Press Spread: Austin Richardson

"If you are going to be all googley-eyed, this is not the right place for you," I heard one of President George W. Bush's advisors announce to the crowd.

As I stood listening in my pressed suit and volunteer nametag, the first reaction that ran through my mind was, "Is she crazy? Why would no one be googley-eyed? I mean, it's not everyday you get





to meet the President of the United States." But on Sept. 26, 2006, I was lucky enough to have this rare opportunity.

On this day, President Bush visited Birmingham and made a stop in Hoover before finishing the day at a lunchtime fundraiser held at the Birmingham Jefferson Civic Center. The President had recently called for more investment in alternative energy sources, and he chose Hoover as an example of a city advocating this process.

Midmorning, he stepped off Air Force One at the Birmingham International Airport and traveled to Hoover where he addressed the Hoover Public Safety Center.

While speaking, he highlighted and praised the city's use of an ethanol fuel blend to run 137 city vehicles. At his next stop, he met the governor of Alabama, Bob Riley.

Bush was estimated to have raised approximately \$2.5 million at this event, all of which went to help the governor with his re-election campaign.

Although I was only a volunteer at the BJCC and therefore denied a seat at the event because I couldn't shell out a large sum of money, it was worth the pain of standing on my feet for hours in order to hear the president speak first-hand about the current issues circulating newspaper headlines.

Dedicated to his decision, Bush also wanted to assure everyone in the room that he would do whatever it took to win the war on terror. He was sure to praise Governor Riley and his extensive efforts in education reform and even got many laughs when he admitted that he had heard all the hype surrounding the infamous Hoover football team on a small network called MTV.

I was not the only face representing Samford University at this event, however. Seniors Ike Baker and Melissa Poole also volunteered.

Baker, a biology and pre-med major, was thankful when a friend and employee of the Alabama Republican Party called and asked him to volunteer at the event. "I didn't think I would be able to go see President Bush speak because of the cost of tables, but I was given the opportunity to work the event and get a chance to meet some very important people," Baker said. "Just being in that atmosphere was amazing."

Like myself, Baker and Poole were given the coveted opportunity to work the photo opportunity. After we had taken up photo tickets for important people such as radio personalities Rick and Bubba, White House Press Secretary Tony Snow and Alabama Governor Bob Riley, we went upstairs to listen to the President's speech.

Baker said he left the speech newly confident with his nation's Commander-in-Chief. "I know that he has my country and my well-being at heart," Baker said.

In the end, those of us working the photo opportunity were able to do little more than peer around a black curtain just to sneak a glance at the President. It didn't help that Secret Service would have taken us down on the spot if we had attempted to do otherwise, and yes, they really wear those little earpieces you see in the movies. But overall, just the experience itself was rewarding and exciting.

"It's not everyday the President comes to your city. As a college student, I was able to not only go to the event but also participate and help right in the thick of things," Poole, a journalism and mass communications major, said.

At the end of the day, I was proud to see Samford students represented at this event in support of our president, and situations and students such as these only further attest to the caliber of our institution.

by Matt Campbell Photo: Associated Press Spread: Austin Richardson

A Time of War

Four years. The war in Iraq has boiled on for four years. It's been four years since that fateful March day when bombs first rocked Baghdad. It's been four years since coalition forces initially took control over Iraq's government.

Four years. During the past year, several things have changed in Iraq and in the United States.

Many analysts see the past year as a period of realization for the United States. The year 2006 began with President George W. Bush reassuring the nation that his plan for Iraq would succeed.

Bush's plan called for passing on responsibility for domestic safety to the new Iraqi regime and beginning the gradual extraction of American troops. However, the plan soon began to falter.

By late summer, cold reality began to clash with the optimistic promises from the White House. The region's sectarian violence escalated daily. The Shiite-dominated government faced waves of violence, crashing on every street of Baghdad. Shiite militias, free from government reprimand, retaliated with calculated executions and bombings.

Amid the throbbing hostility was the American military, desperately trying to maintain authority with a depleted force. On August 3, General John Abizaid, head of U.S. Central Command, testified before the Senate Armed Services Committee. He said, "I believe that the sectarian violence is probably as bad as I've seen it, in Baghdad in particular, and that if not stopped, it is possible that Iraq could move toward civil war."

With such trouble breeding in Iraq, criticism of the U.S.'s policies flowed stronger than ever. The war that aimed to eliminate senseless death brought with it a large amount of collateral damage.

In early October, a British medical journal, "The Lancet," projected the Iraqi death toll to be 650,000, or an average of 500 people who have died a day, since March of 2003. Though President Bush dismissed these reports as false and exaggerated, the death toll is definitely considerable. The most accepted figure is somewhere around 35,000.

This destruction, though tragic, was not felt directly by most citizens. However, the Iraqi death toll could have a

significant impact on American citizens. The continued death and violence could easily be a rallying cry for militants.

The "New York Times" reported on a classified National Intelligence Estimate titled "Trends in Global Terrorism: Implications for the United States." The report essentially said the War in Iraq had not reduced the threat of terrorism; rather, it had made America more vulnerable to attack:

"The Iraq conflict has become the 'cause celebre' for jihadists, breeding a deep resentment of U.S. involvement in the Muslim world and cultivating supporters for the global jihadist movement."

While America braced itself for another attack, politicians geared up their campaigns. The Democrats, largely playing off the lack of success in Iraq, swept both houses of Congress. The next day, Donald Rumsfeld resigned as secretary of defense, leaving behind him a trail of criticism and doubt. With the Democrats in control of both the House of Representatives and the Senate, President Bush faced new opposition to his aggressive foreign policy.

The strategy of the war soon shifted from a gradual pullout to a dramatic surge in U.S. forces. The new strategy, which will forever be known as The Surge, calls for an influx of 21,500 troops in Iraq. January 2007 marked the first time President Bush backed down from his initial plan. Though hopeful for progress, Bush's ideas were met with staunch resistance from the newly elected Democrats.

The end of 2006 and the beginning of 2007 will prove to be a significant time in the War on Terror. Many transitional measures will be implemented in the coming months. The surge of troops will likely crush the insurgent resistance.

However, only history will decide if the war was truly successful. Many believe bringing democracy to Iraq will be a resounding success, that the region will embrace a new type of society. Opponents warn that our presence in Iraq has only worsened the hope for peace in an already brutal area. Whatever the case may be, one thing is certain: the War in Iraq has been costly. Sometimes great victories demand great costs. Yet, other times, great costs can outweigh marginal benefits.



From the kitchen to the Congress

by Kimberly Holland
Photo: Associated Press
Spread: Austin Richardson

"Tonight, I have a high privilege and distinct honor of my own – as the first President to begin the State of the Union message with these words: Madam Speaker."

With those two final words, the crowd bolted into a standing ovation.

These words marked the opening of President George W. Bush's annual State of the Union address on Jan. 23, 2007. The gathered senators, representatives, Presidential Cabinet members, Supreme Court justices, members of the armed forces and special guests witnessed an historic moment as a sitting president began his speech to the country by addressing a female Speaker of the House, Democratic Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi of California.

"In his day, the late Congressman Thomas D'Alesandro, Jr., from Baltimore, Maryland, saw Presidents Roosevelt and Truman at this rostrum," Bush continued. "But nothing could compare with the sight of his only daughter, Nancy, presiding tonight as Speaker of the House of Representatives."

The road to the House

The road to this moment began many years earlier for the 66-year-old mother of five. Pelosi was raised in a political family; her father served in the House from 1939 to 1947 and later served as mayor of Baltimore for twelve years. Her brother, Thomas D'Alesandro III, served in the same mayoral post from 1967 to 1971.

After marrying Paul Pelosi, the couple moved to San Francisco where she became active with the California Democratic Party and served as chair from 1981 to 1983. She was elected to the United States House of Representatives in June of 1987, filling the seat of the late Rep. Sala Burton.

In 2001, she was elected the House Minority Whip under the House Minority Leader Dick Gephardt, becoming the first woman ever to hold that position. Then in 2002, after Gephardt resigned to seek the 2004 Democratic Presidential bid, Pelosi was elected to replace him. This selection made Pelosi the first woman to lead a major party in the House of Representatives.

A change of fortunes

As mid-term elections approached in 2006, Pelosi toured the country campaigning for her fellow Democratic House members, working fervently to secure a Democratic take over of the Congress. Republicans had controlled the Congress for the last 12 years.

As the numbers came in and states decided on the night of Nov. 7, 2006, the House divided in favor of the Democrats, 233 to 202. Pelosi was poised to become the first woman

speaker of the house, a position that would make her second in the line of presidential succession.

On Jan. 4, 2007, she was formally elected, defeating House Minority leader John Boehner, a Republican from Ohio.

Before introducing Pelosi to the House, Boehner remarked about the magnitude of what he was about to do.

"In a few moments, I'll have the high privilege of handing the gavel of the House of Representatives to a woman for the first time in American history. For more than 200 years, the leaders of our government have been democratically elected, and from their ranks, our elected leaders have always selected a man for the responsibility and honor of serving as speaker of the House." Boehner continued, "Always, that is, until today."

Holding the gavel in her hand, Pelosi addressed the newly elected Democratic-controlled House.

"After giving this gavel away in the last two Congresses, I'm glad someone else has the honor today," Pelosi said.

Embracing the future

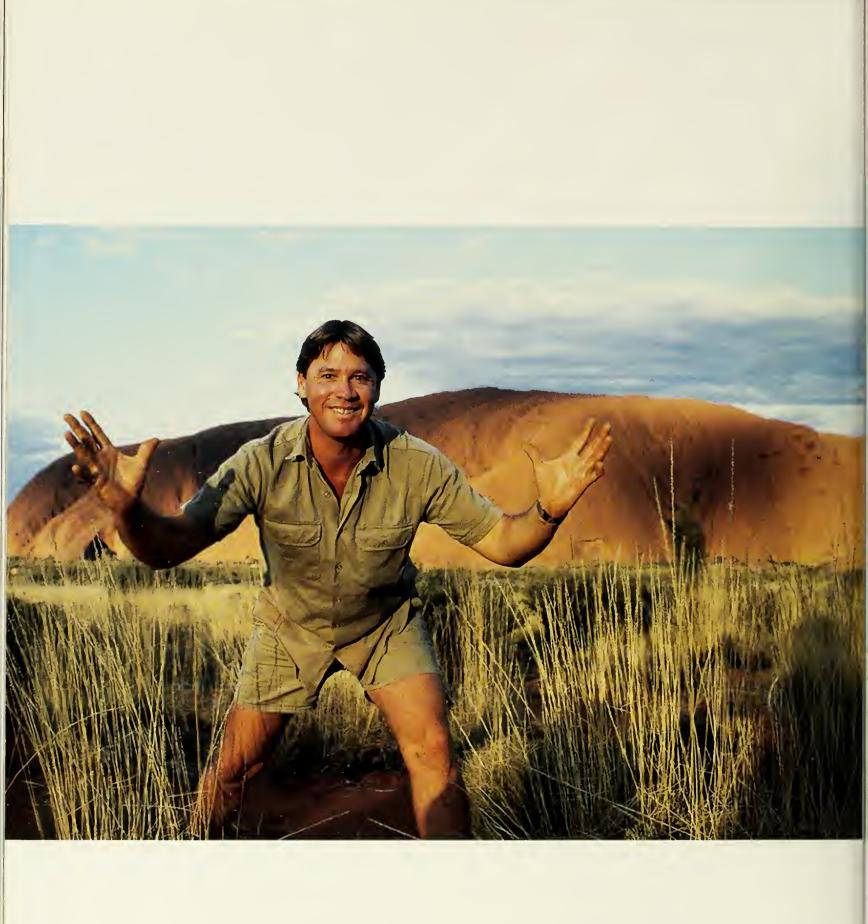
Pelosi and Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid pledged to unite in bipartisanship so to answer the call of Americans in the mid-term election for a change of course for the country. The leadership duo formulated the "First 100 Hours," a legislative agenda with the intention of tightening restrictions on spending earmarks, lobbying, gifts and travel. It also proposed a change in the federal minimum wage, the first such increase in ten years and one conditionally supported by Republicans. In addition, they also aimed to repeal Bush's ban on federal embryonic stem cell research funding, an action Bush adamantly said he will veto.

"Last November, the voters sent us a message – Democrats and Republicans. The voters are upset with Congress and the partisan gridlock. The voters want a government that focuses on their needs. The voters want change. Together, we must deliver that change," Reid said.

All the proposed bills passed through the House before the 100 hours clock ran out, but the Senate vowed to take a slower approach to the legislative process.

With all sides vowing to come to the new Congress with renewed senses of duty and stowed partisanship, both Democrats and Republicans are poised for a historic session of Congress in the coming years. And as Nancy Pelosi broke through what she called the "marble ceiling" to be elected to a position no woman has held before, this will all be done under the watchful eye of the first female Speaker of the House.





Celebrities Master the Media

by Haley Aaron Photo: Associated Press Spread: Austin Richardson

The year 2006 was, to say the least, an interesting year in celebrity news. From the sad to the silly to the downright bizarre, the media covered it all – and the entire world watched. Viewers were shocked when they learned of the death of Steve Irwin, the popular naturalist of "Crocodile Hunter" fame, who died after being stabbed by a stingray's tail while filming a nature show. They watched with shock the antics of celebrities such as Tom Cruise and Brittany Spears and listened with anger to the anti-semantic comments made by actor Mel Gibson and the racist tirade by comedian Michael Richards.

All year, there was a seemingly constant flow of celebrity deaths, divorces and deviance. In other words, this year provided plenty of content for the media. In fact, there was so much media coverage of celebrity events that it caused many questions and concerns to be raised. The problem received national attention, and Newsweek published an article entitled "The Girls Gone Wild Effect" which specifically discussed how the inappropriate conduct of celebrities such as Brittany Spears and Paris Hilton has affected young girls exposed to media coverage.

Can overexposure to sensational celebrity stories cause problems for individuals? In some cases it can, according to Samford sociology professor Dr. Hugh Floyd. "People who look at celebrities with such adoration might feel less adequate themselves," said Floyd. "It might cause some kind of disjuncture between who they are compared to what they would like to be." By spending an excessive amount of time following celebrity news stories, viewers may develop an obsession with the media coverage, which could result in other negative social and mental effects as well.

Excessive coverage of celebrity news and celebrity obsession is usually considered a fairly recent phenomenon. However, news coverage of sensational celebrity news is not new.

Journalism professor Dr. Julie Williams contends that while early newspapers may not have reported on "celebrities" in today's sense of the word, they did cover news about the heroes of their day in great detail. From politicians to scientists, most individuals who achieved some sort of fame or widespread recognition are covered extensively in early media.

Even gossip column news predates the 20th century. Williams discusses newspaper coverage of Thomas Jefferson's rumored affair with one of his slaves, Sally Hemming. "Interestingly, even though geneticists had 'confirmed' Jefferson as the father (based on modern evidence), they're now backing off that claim," said Williams. "It now seems the whole thing maybe was just celebrity gossip." The story of Jefferson and Hemming is still being studied today, and according to Williams the event also presents a striking corollary to one of the biggest stories of 2006.

"Geneticists, genealogists and possible descendants still thrive on this bit of celebrity gossip, which just can't help but remind me of the question of who fathered Anna Nicole Smith's baby," she said. Anna Nicole Smith, a well known model, died this year at the age of 30, leaving a baby girl and many questions over who the child's father may be.

According to Williams, with the rise of radio and television came the idea of "celebrity" as we know it today. "These media put voices and faces to names, and with voices and faces, you feel as though you get a full personality," said Williams. "Suddenly people think they know a celebrity as if he or she were a friend."

Williams feels that celebrity antics have become more and more extreme because the media was willing to publish the stories and there was an audience who would read such stories. "As the press has grown more liberal about what it will write about, celebrities have responded with ever more outlandish behavior to garner attention," she said.

"Who could forget Brittany Spears' well-publicized lack of underwear? Certainly, she wanted attention as her celebrity status faltered. And she got it."

World Cup Fever at Samford

by Marissa Taylor

Photos and Spread: Austin Richardson

In a society that worships the passion, excitement and grit of sports, there is only one championship tournament that exceeds more emotion and obsession than any other in the world. The FIFA World Cup is an international association for the football (better known as soccer) championship tournament that occurs every four years. This year's World Cup brought superhuman star players, spine-tingling goals and intense games to the millions of people that were consumed for a magnificent five weeks.

The qualification process began in December of 2003 where 198 national soccer associations were represented. Thirty-two teams from six different continents around the world qualified for the World Cup finals including the hosts Germany, who won the right to host the event in July 2000, and previous winners, Brazil. This past summer was the 18th staging of the FIFA World Cup. Italy won their fourth world



championship, defeating France 5–3 in a penalty shootout after extra time finished in a 1–1 draw. Germany defeated Portugal 3–1 to finish third.

Germany was well prepared to host the 2006 FIFA World Cup. They spent years preparing for the incredible opportunity that accommodating the World Cup gave them by boasting brandnew stadiums or vastly improved ones in twelve different cities.

The people of Germany bonded over their love of the game and worked together to make 2006 an incredible World Cup year.

But while many watched feverishly from their TV sets at home, there were a few Samford students who were fortunate enough to have been studying with Samford's study abroad program in Germany at the same time as the Cup.

"The highlight of our trip was the madness for soccer there. We became completely consumed by it too because every single thing that can be marketed had a World Cup advertisement or specialty edition," Steven Black, a senior Spanish major said. "There was even a World Cup edition of the hazelnut spread, Nutella. It was a completely different culture from any sporting event I've ever been a part of."

Germany is a cosmopolitan country with a passion for soccer. The people devoted themselves to ensuring the 2006 FIFA World Cup was an unforgettable experience. The country enjoyed welcoming fans from all over the world as they filled their own soil with even more color and life.

The game of soccer is appealing to many different types of people and it is easy to see why. While the rest of the world is fighting over religion, politics and skin color, soccer is known for being culturally and racially blind, teaching fans and players virtues such as tolerance, fairness and team spirit.

For the students at Samford, they felt like it was pure luck to get to experience something as big as the World Cup first-hand. "I have a newfound respect for the game and players that would not be the same if I had just watched the games at home," Black said. "Here in America, everyone grows up being obsessed with football, but the Germans must be twice as extreme about soccer as anything I've seen in the states."

"When Germany beat Argentina by two penalty kicks, people were dancing, singing and screaming in the streets, and so they agreed to shut down a street or two. I wish I could have taken that fanatical idea back with me to the states, but it is so hard to watch it here since it doesn't get televised very often," Black said.

Millions of people gave up five weeks of their lives to feed their infatuation with soccer. And for some Samford people, it started a new zealous attitude for the game too. Who knows? Maybe the U.S.A. will catch soccer fever and demand more diversity for the love of the game too.



Pledge

Greek recruitment is one of the largest events held on Samford's campus, and many have experienced the ups and downs of what is better known as "rush." But after signing bid cards or squealing on bid day, many students devote countless hours to various philanthropies, plan campus-wide events and experience the bond that only those who have pledged can experience.









Greek Weekend: Road Trip

by Melissa Poole Photos: Jessica Casto Spread: Austin Richardson

"Welcome to the ATL!" Over 500 students were greeted by these words as they entered the Historic Biltmore Hotel in downtown Atlanta on Friday, September 8 for a night of dancing, socializing and fun. The Biltmore dance was just one of several events that the Samford Greek community sponsored to celebrate the 2006 Greek Weekend.

A tradition at Samford, Greek Weekend is a time for new and old members of the Samford community to get together and just have a good time. Open to the entire university, Greek weekend gives the sororities and fraternities a chance to unite and celebrate their membership in the Greek Community as a whole. This year, the Panhellenic Council and Inter-Fraternity Council hosted four main Greek Weekend events which consisted of a McElwain clean-up day, a dance at the Biltmore, a tailgate before the Georgia Tech football game and a Sunday morning worship service.

The Greek Weekend kick-off started with a clean-up of McElwain Elementary School. McElwain has been the ongoing project of the Greek community the past two years. This event brought several fraternity guys, sorority girls and new freshmen as well to the Birmingham school for a day of yard work, painting and general cleaning. "McElwain has been a place that has become very close to the hearts of many students and we as a Greek community want to do all that we can for this school," said Emily Sparks, senior member of Chi Omega.

Friday of Greek Weekend, the party moved to Atlanta to kick of the Georgia Tech weekend. Both IFC and PHC hosted a band party at the Historic Biltmore Hotel. "We were so excited to see so many new Samford faces," said Frank Parsons, Director of Student Involvement. "We had a great turnout and we had to kick people out when the night was over."

The dance, a Greek Weekend tradition, had a new face to it this year. When IFC and PHC realized Greek Weekend was collaboration of ideas the Georgia Tech vs. Samford football game, they

jumped on the wagon and moved the dance to Atlanta. "The move proved to be a good idea, and everyone talked about wanting to keep the dance in Atlanta," said Sparks.

The fun in the ATL continued the next day when IFC and PHC, along with many members of the Greek community, attended the tailgate and football game at Georgia Tech. Whether it was eating barbecue, visiting the Greeks at Georgia Tech or hanging out with Spike, there was a plethora of Samford spirit to cheer the bulldogs on.

One tradition that Greek weekend is especially proud of, is the Greek worship service held on Sunday. This year, IFC and Lamda Chi member Matt Francisco worked to bring members of each Greek organization together to fellowship and worship. "It is a special time when all members of the Greek community, regardless of their affiliation, can come together and worship. This is important to Samford students," said Daniel Crane, senior Commander of Sigma Nu.

Greek Weekend 2006 was a time that IFC and PHC claim to be the best part of the Greek year at Samford. It is a chance to show a unity among the community and display the great relationship that the Greeks have with each other and the rest of the Samford community.

An All Relational Thing

by Rachael Lamb Photo: Emily Sparks Spread: Nick Holdbrooks

Every fall, hundreds of guys and girls sign up for a life-changing event called recruitment, when they decide which sorority or fraternity they would best fit into. Students in these organizations spend hours on the collaborating of ideas, planning schedules, and most importantly being a good representation of Greek unity on campus.

Besides the major task of putting on recruitment, Panhellenic and Inter-Fraternity Council members plan events throughout the year to better the reputation of Greek life and unite the 10 Greek societies as a whole.

Panhellenic president and senior family studies major Sarah Wolf reflects on her experience with Greek Life.

"It's just so cool to be connected to such a great network of people and opportunities," Wolf said. "I would never have been as involved on campus if I had not been motivated by the active role Greek life plays in this community."

IFC President and junior biology major Nate Stenstrom talks about the importance of being on IFC.

"IFC keeps the fraternities working to the fullest of their abilities," Stenstrom said. "We're a group of guys with talent, wit and good looks. We won eight out of the 10 possible awards at the annual Southeastern Inter Fraternity Council, in which 250 schools across the southeast competed."

This year, Panhellenic and IFC continued their three year involvement with McElwain Elementary through the Adopt-A-School program in which college Greeks build relationships through mentoring and tutoring over 70 children every week.

They also help rebuild and repair the school itself. Greek Life held over several clean-up days this year and provided a \$10,000 donation toward the building of a new playground at McElwain.

IFC Public Relations chair and history and religion major Rob Howell talks about the positive influence the school has had on Samford students.

"Samford's Greek Life commitment to McElwain Elementary School has been beneficial both to the school and to Samford Greek Life," Howell said. "As the Greek community continues its three-year partnership, lives of students from both schools are positively influenced and changed."

Vice President of Recruitment and senior journalism major Emily Sparks talks about the positive Greek impact on the Birmingham community.

"Being a member of Panhellenic has helped me see the bigger picture of Greek life," Sparks said. "By looking at ways to help the Greek system benefit as a whole, we have been working to make the community stronger through different events and programs such as the Drug Education Convocation."

Panhellenic and IFC provided convocation in support of drug education and awareness. Police officers brought attention to the problems and consequences that come along with doing illegal drugs.

Vice President of Recruitment & Rho Gammas and senior English major Shelby Crowe says seeing the other side of rush has been a good experience for her.

"I enjoy experiencing the other side of rush and being able to interact with the girls going through, without having a biased standpoint," Crowe said.



Panhellenic and Greek Life members enjoy their time at McElwain Elementary School

Sophomore history major and IFC member Grant Blackburn says that the council is more than meets the eye.

"IFC is much more than just a group of guys that meet once a week to try and keep Samford's Fraternal groups organized," Blackburn said. "I feel like I can speak for the majority of Samford Greeks in saying that the community service projects IFC promotes such as McElwain Elementary and the Old Howard 100 help us to grow both as men and Christians."

IFC contributed their time and money towards the annual Old Howard 100, a bike race held in Birmingham. Both groups have publicized many philanthropic events going on in Birmingham and Alabama.

Sophomore elementary education major and Panhellenic Secretary Betsie Boggs discusses the unity among the sororities when it comes to being in this sort of organization.

"My favorite thing about being on Panhellenic is crossing the letters of sororities and truly being a part of a larger Greek community," Boggs said. "We are like our own sorority before and during rush, especially at Greek weekend. There is no competition, we're all friends."

Boggs adds that Greek Life Director Dr. Frank Parsons has been fun to work with.

"We greatly enjoy working with Dr. Parsons. Frank is a big help; plus he's like our dad."

A Peek into Parsons' World

by Rachael Lamb Photo: Bob Miller Spread: Austin Richardson

Many professors and staff members at Samford are known for the dedication towards their work and their students. However, there is one individual who outshines the rest when it comes to commitment. Tucked away in the office of student involvement is a man who not only serves as the Director of Greek Life, but is in charge of many other organizations and events here on campus. Frank Parsons has served as the Director of Student Involvement for five years now and knows very well the meaning of service. He initiated the Adopt-A-School program with McElwain Elementary which is now upheld by Greek Life and has contributed countless hours to making campus involvement what it is today. This was Frank's last year with us at Samford, but the students who knew him will never forget the impact that he had.

What is the purpose of Greek Life at Samford?

A It is a great extracurricular activity and a unique outlet for campus and community involvement. It is an opportunity to be a part of something bigger than yourself. It's also a way to kind of have an identity and really be plugged in. Greek life is a great investment into a university. It is the kind of investment that will propel graduates to come back to visit Samford.

How has Greek life changed since you've been here?

A It has gotten more focused, than years past, on what sororities and fraternities initially were meant to be like. There is more talk about community service, and the organizations are more academically sound. There is also more branching out into other leadership opportunities on campus.

Where do you see Greek life going in the future?

A I see Greek life as an important part of Samford's future. I hope that as the undergraduate population continues to grow, the population among Greeks will as well.

Did you get hazed when you were in college?

I went to Auburn, and yes, I got hazed. I don't think it did a lot for my character, but it seemed a reasonable price to pay at the time. Part of it was fun and games; I have no scars, no stitches, no flesh wounds. Hazing was seen as a right of passage. Looking back, it really wasn't about building brotherhood, but I guess it takes a while to see that.

What did you think about Britney
Blalock's article in the Crimson
mentioning the Greek system's lack of
Christian behavior?

I really appreciate the opportunity to have discussion. Controversy is sometimes the spice of life. It was not an attack, but simply a difference in opinion. I sort of viewed her as an outsider looking in; sometimes that perspective is not a full perspective. Some people take notice of others talking as an expert when they're not necessarily an expert. I was pleased with the responses from students who are working hard at making Samford's Greek societies different than at other schools. To be characterized as something other than that is frustrating, because students take it personally.

What is your favorite thing about Samford?

The size, what Samford stands for, and how students hold each other accountable. I often wonder what it would've been like to come to Samford. It is a great experience for our students. Samford is comparable to the Greek life, because of the many opportunities for leadership, community service, academic and growing spiritually with your peers. All of that is woven into the fabric of Samford. Students are constantly being encouraged, supported, and challenged in all these areas. That may not be the same at a larger school.

If you could have any superpower, what would you have?

A The ability to see the future.

If you could be any celebrity, who would you be and why?

A Charlton Heston. He's so tough and thick-skinned. He is always in some sort of catastrophe, but gets out of it and ends up saving the day.

What is your favorite sorority?

A (Laughs)





Rush Diary

by Ashlyn Stallings Photo: Nick Holdbrooks, Bob Miller Spread: Austin Richardson

I was raised in one of those deep-south cities, where words like sorority, fraternity, rush and squeal are steeped thick into our vernacular. Growing up, I couldn't have defined them for you, nor could I decipher the foreign language with which the clubs were labeled, but I knew it had to be a big deal. After all, despite my little-girl pleas, Dad would never let me in on his secret fraternity handshake, though it's not like I would have told anybody.

But those letters started to un-muddle as I entered high school. Some girls seem bred for this kind of system, which became evident as the Greek whispers began our junior year. Word of squeal-worthy successes and horror-stories drifted back to the city social scene as our friends went off to huge southern state schools. Before summer began, the Greek alumnae in Montgomery had ensured that I had plenty of letters of recommendation sent to Samford.

By the time I arrived on the fifth floor of Lena Vail Davis Hall, my best friends had already conquered Rush and pledged a sorority at Auburn and Alabama. They promised a fun experience, but admitted that Rush lived up to its whirlwind name. I had to wait three more weeks to be pushed out of my nest, but our newly formed bonds were strong enough for my friends and I to withstand Samford's Rush. I was ready to exchange a hug when I passed Greek upperclassmen I knew; stifling a "hey" and ducking our smiling faces was getting old.

So halfway through September, we shuffled into Reid Chapel and soaked up Panhellenic's advice and instruction as they prefaced the upcoming weekend, right down to the outfits we should select. We were divided into groups of about fifteen girls, "Rho Gams," they were called, each complete with a leader whose Greek affiliation was to remain a mystery during Rush. The group served as a microcosm of the Rush system, as each girl in my Rho Gam group was a little different from the next. We ranged from sporty to glamorous, but we were looking for similar qualities: lasting friendship, Christ-centered relationships, role models, and obviously, opportunities for fun.

After wiggling through a day of classes, we pulled on Panhellenic issued t-shirts and curled/straightened our hair for Day 1: Philanthropy Day. I stood with my girls in Rho Gam Group #12, queued outside the first house on Sorority row. Suddenly, fists began banging on widows and grinning faces emerged in the windows around the door as sisters proudly

shouted out their letters. After the initial shock, all the rushees took a collective deep breath and hustled inside the house to run our mouths with strangers for a quarter hour. We attended all five houses over two days, embracing a plethora of songs and videos while we learned about each sorority's selected philanthropy. We had multiple one-on-one conversations as the sisters "rushed" us. I was loving every minute; how would I ever pick one if each house seemed loaded with cute girls that treated me like a celebrity? But the second day my heart fell into a certain house, this one had to be my fit. I just hoped they didn't think the massive smile stuck across my face the whole time was weird.

Day 3 approached, and crossing our fingers that this list would match our own rankings, we were handed slips of paper with the houses that wanted us back. Crestfallen faces were scattered amidst the beams other girls wore, but as a group, we were ready to tread on though Rush. This was Theme Day, and our crisp sundresses whisked into houses as we learned more about sisterhood. Overnight, the houses had transformed, each looking like a room I had never stepped foot in before. Lights, candles, and chiffon-swaged ceilings created whimsical and inviting atmospheres. It was a challenge to remember that the decorations were temporary, and the conversations needed to be the true selling factor. By now, I was sold on "my" sorority, I had found the fun, Godly group of girls that I wanted to learn to become. The other houses I visited were amazing, but I couldn't help where my heart had already fallen. Once more, we ranked the sororities...

Monday meant that Pref Day had finally arrived! We pranced over to West Campus in our classiest of dresses, anxiously eager to discover the one or two houses that wanted more of us. I was happy to be asked back to my top two, but I knew that so much hinged on this important night. The sororities held a solemn attitude tonight; they would be showing us what it really meant to become one of them. The rushees were excited, apprehensive, bleary-eyed, and exhausted. As I set foot into my desired house that night, I couldn't have been more at peace. Everything felt right, and the tears running down my face only meant that I had found what I wanted. The other house also had stunning decorations and sweet girls, but every girl told me over and over, "Go with your heart." As I filled out my final rankings that night, I couldn't understand why some rushees seemed torn because I was so in love with my top choice.

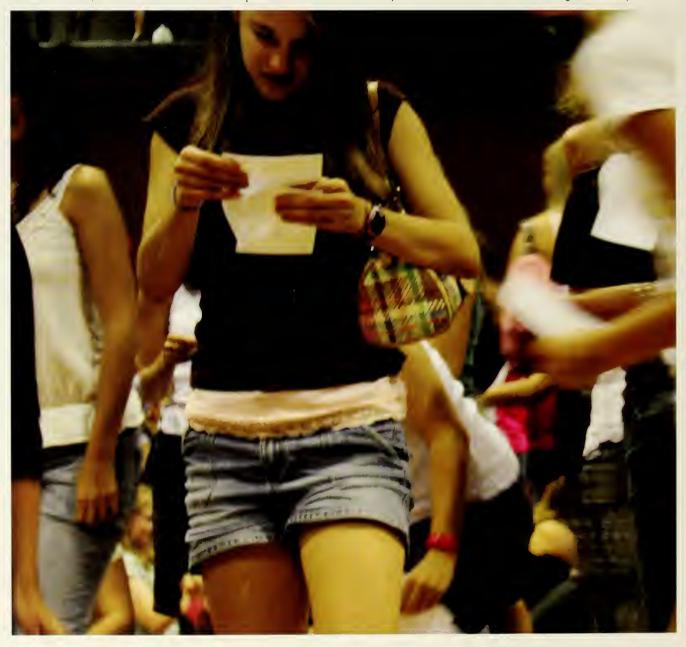
My Rho Gam stopped me the next day to tell me that I had indeed received a bid, but it could have been from either of the two houses I "preffed." Nerves ran rampant among all

the rushees that Tuesday, and we were relieved to finally enter Bashinsky Fieldhouse at dusk. The gym was already stocked with people: sorority girls in color-coordinated groups on the floor were chanting, our parents along the sides with digital cameras ready, and guys leaning over the elevated track railing attempting to grasp this crazy ritual or maybe just to laugh.

The members of Rho Gam Group #12 and I restlessly sat on our bid cards until we would be allowed to rip through the envelope. Finally, the countdown began and my fingers received an extra dose of adrenaline. Three...two...ONE! I slashed through the envelope and jerked out the card. I'm not quite sure if my scream came when I saw my name, the azure blue and white crest, or the name of my number one choice, but I now understand why it is called Squeal Day. As I ran over with my new pledge sisters and was showered with hugs from the sisters, I knew that this choice was perfect.

I have to tip my hat to girls that survive rush at state schools; if five houses drained me, I would hate to see what sixteen could do. Samford's Rush was quite an experience. The bonds we developed were uniquely formed under bizarre circumstances. But perhaps that is why Rush is such a big deal down here; Southerners always have been associated with quirks and eccentricity. So I proudly flaunt my Greek letters, and finally I have my own secret handshake that I can't show to Dad.

BELOW: A potential new member takes a first peek at her bid card. RIGHT: Alpha Delta Pi members cheer on the new girls on bid day.







Why I Didn't Rush

by Kelley Cotten Photo: Bob Miller Spread: Austin Richardson

When I came to Samford University as a wide-eyed freshman nearly two years ago, there were so many things I wanted to experience during my four years of college. I wanted to challenge myself intellectually and explore all of the various academic avenues that Samford provides with its wide array of majors. I wanted to grow in my independence and take full advantage of this opportunity to become a mature, responsible adult. Most of all, I wanted to form and develop significant, lasting friendships that would both uplift and sustain me throughout my years at Samford.

Though my mother was not a member of any sorority during her years in college, my father was a member of a fraternity. He encouraged me to have an open mind regarding sororities and fraternities and to use Greek life as a means of fellowship with my peers. For this reason, I decided to rush during my freshman year at Samford. Though I had already developed strong friendships with some of the girls on my hall, I decided to rush in order to meet more people and perhaps make some more friends. My decision to rush and my acceptance as a member of my sorority have made my college experience everything I ever hoped for and more.

Through my sorority, I have met some amazing women and made some of the most influential friendships of my life. However, I live with two girls who are not members of any Greek organization, so by no means have I limited myself to solely being friends with my sorority members. My roommate did not rush her freshman year and this prompted me to wonder why some people rush and others do not.

So, I decided to interview sophomore exercise science major Kristin Bartsokas in order to gain a better understanding of why someone would choose not to rush. Kristin did not rush her freshman year at Samford and has still been able to develop meaningful, lasting relationships with people who are both Greek and non-Greek. When I asked Kristin if she had been exposed to sororities and fraternities through her parents, she said, "No, my mother was not in a sorority when she was in school. She was an athlete, so she considered her teammates her sorority sisters in a way. I had originally thought about playing college basketball, and so I figured that my teammates would serve as my close-knit group of friends as well." When asked if there were any other reasons she did not rush, Kristin responded, "My parents told me that if I wanted to rush and be a member of a sorority, then I had to find a way to pay for it myself. I didn't see how I was going to be able to do that, so that really influenced my decision to not rush as well."

When I asked Kristin if one of the reasons she did not rush had anything to do with disapproval of Greek organizations she said, "By no means am I anti-Greek. I have sought out relationships with girls in every sorority on campus as well as with non-Greeks. However, knowing now how stressful and emotional rush is, I definitely know I made the right decision for me in not rushing." I also asked her if there were ever times when she regretted having not rushed, to which she replied, "Yeah there are definitely times when I regret my decision to not rush. It's hard when a bunch of my friends are getting ready to go to a party and I am the only one who is not going. I am such a social, relational person, and I love being around people all the time, so part of me wonders sometimes if I made a mistake in deciding not to rush. I also miss not getting to wear the really cool t-shirts that the sorority girls get."

Finally, I asked if she felt that her decision had ever negatively affected her social life in any way and she said, "Being non-Greek has definitely not affected my social life in a bad way. I have still been able to build some really substantial relationships with both Greeks and non-Greeks here at Samford."

So whether you choose to rush or not, Samford definitely provides an environment that is conducive to both Greeks and non-Greeks alike.

Strong Ωpinions

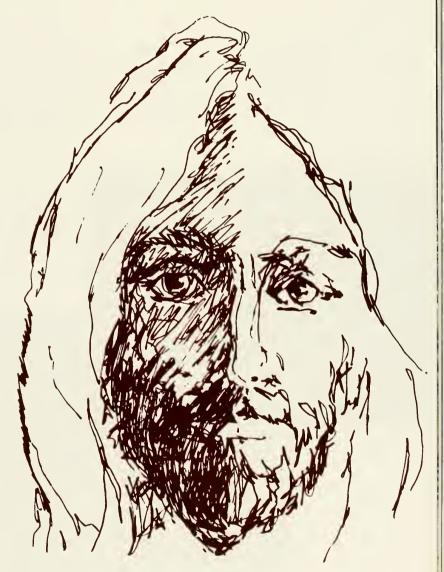
by Kelley Cotten Illustration: Donovan Harris Photo: Bob Miller Spread: Austin Richardson

The opinion section of the September 27th issue of The Samford Crimson featured a somewhat controversial article by junior English major Britney Blalock. The article was entitled "Would Jesus join a fraternity?" The article sparked a debate on Samford's campus regarding the role of Greek Life at a Christian University like Samford. In her article, Blalock posed the question, "How exactly does being in a sorority or fraternity fit into the Samford motto, 'For God, for learning, forever?'" Blalock quoted numerous Bible verses from First Corinthians and James 2, which emphasized the idea of inclusion and acceptance for all people in the kingdom of Christ. Blalock questioned whether exclusive, selective organizations such as sororities and fraternities represent these Christian ideals of inclusion and acceptance. She stated in her article, "Other than being opposed to the generally nerve-racking way in which Rush is carried out, my main argument is that if God is given glory by accepting others (Romans 15:7), then how can social exclusion be used to worship God?"



Immediately following the publication of Blalock's article, an outpouring of response was printed in the opinion section of the October 4th issue of The Samford Crimson. Four articles, each in their own way, refuted the arguments of Blalock's argument. In one article entitled "A Word from an Avid Supporter," senior religion major Matt Francisco stated, "Britney Blalock's article condemned the Greek system at Samford for, among other things, being exclusive, a waste of money, uniform and worldly centered." Francisco denounced Blalock's argument by declaring that Jesus was himself the leader of an exclusive group known as the disciples. Jarred Griffin, a senior history and education major, stated in his response "Frats: Another mission field," "Throughout the Gospels, Jesus is found in fellowship with the same twelve men. Each of these twelve men learned something invaluable from the other eleven. Were they excluding others socially?" In an attempt to denounce Blalock's statement that Jesus would not join a fraternity, Lane Lofton, a junior history major, declared in his humorous rebuttal "Jesus goes Greek" that Jesus not only would join a fraternity if he were here today, but that in fact he has already joined a fraternity. Mr. Lofton then proceeded to list seventeen men whose first names happened to be Jesus, all of whom were Greek affiliates. Sophomore biology/pre-med major Ashley Bonner stated in her article "Addressing faulty assumptions," "In response to Britney's question of how often we see a multi-racial Greek organization at Samford, I would encourage her to actually look at some of the sororities and fraternities. My sorority in particular has a pledge class with at least four different ethnic groups."

This interview was meant to give Blalock the opportunity to address some of the comments made by her fellow Samford students. When asked what the purpose of her article was Blalock responded by saying, "The purpose of my article was to spark discussion, which I achieved, and I am happy about that." In response to Bonner's statement regarding the criticism of an organization that one is not involved with personally Blalock said, "We criticize politics everyday despite the fact that most of us are not politicians. We should be able to objectively critique any subject from an intellectual standpoint. I think an outside opinion is pivotal in the improvement of any organization or institution because an outsider is able to examine the bigger picture." When asked if she felt as though some of her words had been twisted in the rebuttals, Blalock responded, "In some aspects I do feel like my words have been twisted. I think if anyone read my article closely they would have realized that I was definitely not trying to condemn Greek Life at Samford. I feel like people at Samford have difficulty distinguishing between the idea and the person." When questioned about what she hoped to accomplish with her article Blalock said, "I didn't expect people to change their minds about Greek Life, I just wanted to provide Samford students with a well-rounded view of the debate."



Parties of the Year

by Jessica Casto Photos: Courtesy of Greek Organizations Spread: Austin Richardson

From intramurals to philanthropies, Greek Life keeps many students pretty busy at Samford. However, there's one thing the Greeks pride themselves on and that's throwing a decent party. When sororities and fraternities take a break from their schedules and put on their dancin' shoes, everyone's bound to have a good time. Here's a rundown of some of the best events at Samford this year.

Alpha Delta Pi

Although the sisters of Alpha Delta Pi are known for holding fun and exciting parties year round, one party in particular stood out this spring. On April 20, 2007 at the Birmingham Country Club, the sisters of Alpha Delta Pi held their Black Diamond Formal. The Black Diamond Formal happens only once during a member's four years in Alpha Delta Pi. The Black Diamond Formal is also even more formal than any other party for ADPi. There is even a dress code for this party. Every sister is required to wear a black, white or a black and white dress. Junior ADPi Heather Mackey said, "Black Diamond Formal is really special because it only happens once. It was so much fun."

Alpha Omicron Pi

They refer to themselves as "AOCutiePi's," and a Facebook album glance at Fall Ball 2006 proves the saying is true. The new pledge class of Alpha Omicron Pi voted on a Kentucky Derby theme for the annual ball—a traditional kick-off to the sorority's party calendar. Sisters in sundresses and wide-brim hats twirled with their appropriately preppy dates at the Birmingham Museum of Art. According to 2006 President Kathryn Lamb, the sunflower and daisy-decked room provided everyone a place to "have a great time mingling and dancing."

Chi Omega

Trying something new, the sisters of Chi Omega put on a two-night event for their most memorable party this year. Going from Rags to Riches, Chi O started out with a bonfire and dance party in the woods the first night. The following night, the girls became glamorous for their formal at the Birmingham Museum of Art. "Chi Omega knows how to throw a good party, and when you get us all together, it is so much fun," one sister said. Going out to eat and watching the reaction on people's faces is one of the most fun things about having a themed party. "Our group went to Cracker Barrel dressed in our rags and we looked ridiculous, so this man came up to us and asked us why we were dressed like that and asked us to take a picture with him," said junior Lauren Steele. Many parties and social events are planned throughout the year as a fun outlet to get everyone together.



Phi Mu

Phi Mu's first party of the year was their 80's themed pledge bash at Workplay. Everyone was there including an 80's cover band, Delta Bourke from the Golden Girls and an 80-year old grandmother; after all, it was an 80's party. This party was fun because of the wide variety of costume choices. Salvation Army and Goodwill were great places to go shopping for great costume choices. Workplay was a great place to host their party because you could either dance or sit at a booth and talk with friends or your date. Another enjoyable part of this party was dinner before the party. Everyone took their dates out to dinner, but anywhere you went you would be looked at funny because of the crazy costumes. Sophomore Ashlyn Delianides said, "I loved the band and I love my sisters, so how can you not have fun?"

Zeta Tau Alpha

The Zeta Social Chairs Annie Murphree and Amanda May took their positions wanting to throw creative, unique and original parties. Beginning with pledge bash in the fall to celebrate the incoming of new members, Zeta's party was called "Jewels in the Crown." The theme referred to the British occupation in the West Indies, which allowed for a cultural experience. The party included camels, a monkey, a python, a pheasant, cashmere goats and even catering by an authentic Indian restaurant. By covering a wide variety of themes and locations, Zeta's parties were no doubt unique and original this year.

Lambda Chi Alpha

Lambda Chi Alpha kicked off the party season in October and donned costumes for a Triple X Halloween party with Sigma Chi and Chi Omega. As fall faded, December's wintry weather was perfect for formal. Brothers and their dates were elegantly dressed for the Robert Trent Jones Clubhouse atmosphere. Tans from Spring Break emerged from under safari clothes as brothers bonded with fellow Greeks from Pi Kappa Phi and Alpha Delta Pi. The three organizations united for a Jungle-esque party held at the Lambda Chi house. Brothers generously grilled hot-dogs and hamburgers for their Greek friends, which was followed by dancing inside a decked-out room in the house. Bamboo and grass covered walls, bringing the safari theme full-circle, and the Lambda Chi party circuit as well.





Pi Kappa Phi

While other fraternities and sororities hold their formals at The Birmingham Country Club or The Summit Club, Pi Kappa Phi decided to take their spring formal to a whole new level this year. This year, the brothers of Pi Kappa Phi held their annual Spring Formal at Perdido Beach Resort in Perdido Beach, Florida. The formal was held on Saturday, April 14, and Pi Kapp chartered buses to transport all the brothers and their dates down to the party. Although the drive was long, the trip was definitely worth the ride. For the music, the brothers hired a band by the name of High Tide Blues. According to some of the brothers, the band gave a really good show filled with lots of college-style music. Junior Harrison Irons said, "I really enjoyed this party. I think the idea of having it at the beach really made it special. At the resort, we were able to walk outside and take pictures on the beach. It was definitely a party I will never forget!"

Sigma Chi

This year, Sigma Chi's formal was held at none other than the Vulcan. The weather was perfect and clear for the elevator ride to the top of the Vulcan to watch the sunset with your date. The view from the top of the Vulcan lets you see all of Birmingham in its beauty and glory. Dinner was catered by Café Iz and was enjoyed by everyone. After an intimate dinner with two other couples, the band started playing and rocked late into the night. *Intice* kept everyone enjoying the party and dancing all night long. "We used formal as a way to thank the graduating seniors for what they have done for the fraternity and their brothers," says one of the party planners, Christian Corts.

Sigma Nu

Sigma Nu had their annual Family Tradition date party in the fall semester. Their formal was held on April 20, and they had two mixers, one with Zeta Tau Alpha and one with Chi Omega.







above: Some sisters from Alpha Delta Pi pose for the picture. below: Chi Omega's girls get ready to go to their formal.





above: Sisters from Phi Mu put on their pretty faces. below: One of many couples having a great time at the Zeta Tau Alpha Formal.





above: A handful of brothers from Pi Kappa Phi get together before their formal.

Alpha Delta Pi: Keepin' Busy



by Kelley Cotten
Photo: Courtesy of Alpha Delta Pi
Spread. Austin Richardson

The sisters of Alpha Delta Pi have had a very busy year with regards to raising money for their philanthropy and bringing exciting, interesting speakers and events to Samford.

On November 13, 2007 from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., the sisters of Alpha Delta Pi sponsored Beth Holloway Twitty to speak at Samford. The event was open campus-wide and held in Reid chapel. The event was an enormous success and there was standing room only in Reid Chapel. The sisters also hosted a reception for Beth Twitty after her presentation.

Also last semester, the sisters of Alpha Delta Pi sponsored a golf tournament to raise money for their philanthropy which is the Ronald McDonald House. This golf tournament was another big success for the sisters of Alpha Delta Pi. It brought in over \$10,000 for the Ronald McDonald House.

Their next idea was even more exciting than all of this. On April 5, 2007, the sisters of Alpha Delta Pi hosted a campus wide bingo tourna ment in the cafeteria. Not only was there bingo, but this event also included an all-you-can-eat pancake dinner. The cafeteria along with the Samford administration graciously agreed to donate all of their supplies and services in making the pancakes. The president of Alpha Delta Pi, junior Amy Almand, said, "We really appreciate the cafeteria and the Samford administration donating their supplies and services to help us make the pancakes. That is such a blessing because that way, all the money we raise will be able to go directly to the Ronald McDonald House."

Another really exciting thing concerning the sisters of Alpha Delta Pi involves a very famous pageant known as the Miss America Pageant. One of the Samford ADPi chapter's own members, formerly Miss Samford, Melinda Toole, won Miss Alabama and therefore went on to compete in the Miss America Pageant. Melinda was voted Miss Congeniality and also placed in the top five out of all of the contestants.

From bringing internationally renown speakers to hosting campus wide bingo tournaments, all-you-can-eat pancake dinners and golf tourna - ments, the Samford community can always rely on the sisters of Alpha Delta Pi to enrich the communal life here at Samford.

Alpha Kappa Alpha: Sugar and Spice Make Everything Nice

by Ashlyn Stallings Photos: Courtesy of Alpha Kappa Alph Spread: Austin Richardson

A trek into the Samford Food Court one sunny week in April revealed an array of sweet treats. Chocolate frosting oozed over the lips of cupcake containers next to a Mississippi mud-like dessert. The sisters of Alpha Kappa Alpha had stayed up late the previous night cooking the sweet confectionaries for their annual bake sale.

Jessie Madison, a counseling major, laughed when asked how many hours she put into baking the goods, and smiled as she listed the organizations that the money would benefit. The March of Dimes and the Salvation Army were among the groups named. The sorority has also relied on the bake sale in the past to raise money for their philanthropy, the Sickle Cell Foundation.

As part of its service to the Sickle Cell Foundation, AKA strives to make people aware of the disease and how it affects the community using educational displays and handouts. AKA continues its service through devotion to increasing minority recruitment for Samford, in conjunction with promoting the importance of higher education with the annual Minority Recruitment Banquet for outstanding minority students in Birmingham city schools chosen by faculty and counselors.

Founded on the basis of service to all humanity, enriching college life and promoting high scholastic and ethical standards, the sorority continues to uphold these standards and to seek out new ones. Improving social and economic conditions locally, nationally and internationally are aims of the sorority.

At the bake sale in April, the salmon pink and apple green jerseys proudly displayed the sisters' letters while colorful signs explained donations to Samford students passing through the food court. After a quick glance at the table stacked with containers of homemade treats coated in pink frosting, it's deliciously obvious why the event is an annual one for the AKA girls.





Alpha Omicron Pi: Oh What Fun It Is to Run

by Ashlyn Stallings Photos. Courtesy of Alpha Omicron Pi Spread: Austin Richardson

On a chilly December morning when most Samford students were nestled snug in their beds, the sisters of Alpha Omicron Pi were literally up and running. Slumber in downtown Birmingham was gently wakened by a mysterious reindeer-esque sound. The Jingle Bell Run/Walk is a nation-wide annual tradition organized by the Arthritis Foundation, AOPi's target philanthropy. The girls have helped sponsor and work the festive event for years, an action mirrored by fellow AOPi sisters across the nation.

To help fight the nation's number one cause of disability, participants ran or walked a five kilometer route. Two-leg contestants and a few four leg contestants trotted across Underwood Park located in the Birmingham Metro Area. Some runners wore jingle bells tied to their shoelaces, while others showed up in holiday themed costumes. The Samford Cross Country Team even donned reindeer costumes and ran in a line formation that would impress St. Nick himself.

The Samford AOPi sisters met up with AOPi's from University of Alabama at Birmingham and Birmingham-Southern College. After setting up tables and slicing fresh fruit, the girls began to pass out refreshments to the runners and walkers. Panera Bread Bagels and hot chocolate were comfort food for the participants on such a blustery morning, but the gracious girls reached into chilly ice buckets in order to serve tea as well. Freshmen Kathryn Galphin and Emma Breeden enjoyed the experience, but say they were definitely thankful for the heat lamps.

AOPi promotes several strategies in order to raise awareness for juvenile arthritis. At the first of the year, some members of the Samford community were greeted with hot plates of spaghetti. Hungry students donated money to the cause and received a dinner sponsored by Carrabba's or Olive Garden in return.

The sisters also rely on the yearly event "Strike Out Arthritis" to help raise funds for the foundation. Although rain prevented the event from taking place this year, sponsors were glad to donate to the cause. Donations to the Arthritis Foundation are collected to help prevent, control and cure arthritis.

Every dollar raised brings America one step closer to the cure, and AOPi jumps at every opportunity to aid the Arthritis Foundation. Even if it means being chilled for hours in a Birmingham Park on an icy morning, the sisters of Alpha Omicron Pi are dedicated to the philanthropy they support.





Chi Omega: More Than Sisters

by Allyson Dewell Photos: Courtesy of Chi Omega Spread: Austin Richardson

With the liveliness of cardinal red and straw yellow, the sisters of Chi Omega fill Samford's campus with a spirit that is unique to their organization. Embodying every aspect of Greek life, Chi O has a well-known presence that continues to flourish with the acceptance of new members each fall

Why is Chi Omega unique? The sisters do not look at their organization as just Greek letters; they describe their organization as a blessing to their college experience. Their organization provides an opportunity to become a woman worth aspiring towards by having encouraging friendships with girls that are each different. The sisters of Chi Omega are a strong group of girls that build each other up with astounding encouragement. Chi O sophomore Betsy Martin professes, "You can attempt anything and know that your sisters are supporting you through it all."

Each sister in Chi Omega has unique gifts and talents that are represented across campus. Junior Lauren Steele states, "We are involved all over campus and that makes us unique because we do not just unite as a sorority, but we are dispersed in many other areas of campus." Though they have a wide range of majors and an extensive array of ways they represent themselves across campus, they bind well together. A sister describes, "Though we are all different, when you put us together the product is something bigger than anything we are separately." The diversity of the Chi Omega sisterhood is something that is treasured because of the many strengths that it brings to their sorority.

Sisterhood stories are priceless to sorority life. Sophomore Hayden Hamrick shares a memory, "At our new member retreat, a group of girls (that are now some of my best friends) randomly made a pallet together and stayed up all night just getting to know each other. This was the first time that I really felt a part of Chi Omega." Memories created within the Chi Omega sisterhood do not just stay on Samford's campus. The girls take road trips together, plan

vacations together or just enjoy being with each other outside of school.

Not only are the sisters of Chi Omega involved on Samford's campus, they also participate in activities nationally as well as in the Alabama community. Fall semester, the organization was able to help a little boy that suffered from a disease that hindered his motor senses to develop allowing him to have the ability to only swallow and blink. Ten of the sisters were able to present a big screen television and DVDs to him. "It was a blessing to be able to give to a family in need, but even more to be able to see the joy that we brought to their lives through our fundraiser for the Make a Wish Foundation," one sister describes. Chi O is also involved with the Big Oak Ranch. Recently they have planned a High School Musical movie party, an Easter egg hunt and a cookout.

Chi Omega gives many unique contributions to the Samford community. With their strong sense of sisterhood, diverse members and involvement in the community, Chi O provides many unique attributes. "The heart of Chi Omega is genuine and real. No one comes into this organization and conforms, but rather this organization takes you in and encourages you to be more of the woman you are. This is what makes Chi Omega stand out."





Delta Sigma Theta: Kind of a Big Deal

by Ryan Posniak

Photo: Courtesy of Delta Sigma Theta

Spread: Austin Richardson

The saying "good things come in small packages" not only applies to gifts, but it also describes Samford's chapter of Delta Sigma Theta as well. Currently, the chapter is made up of only two members, but the sisters of Delta Sig have a passion for their sorority that outweighs all larger packages.

Delta Sigma Theta was founded at Howard College on January 13, 1913. Twenty-two women wanted to use their strengths to provide assistance to those in need and to promote academic excellence. The first time that the women of Delta Sigma Theta came together publicly was for the Woman's Suffrage March in Washington D.C. in March 1913. The sorority was incorporated in 1930 and is a private and non-profit organization that provides services and programs that promote human welfare.

Delta Sigma Theta has over 200,000 members and has over 900 chapters. These chapters are located all over the world including the United Sates, Tokyo, Japan, Okinawa, Germany, Bermuda, the Bahamas, Seoul, Korea and in the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Delta Sigma Theta has a five point program: Economic Development, Educational Development, International Awareness and Involvement, Physical and Mental Health and Political Awareness and Involvement. Their five point program is the major program of the sorority.

This past year, the woman of Delta Sigma Theta traveled to Philadelphia for a week for their National Convention. Every chapter in the world was there for the event. They talked about pressing issues in the community.

This year was the first time Angelique Turner attended the National Convention. She said, "It was eye opening to see so many women engaged in so many prevalent issues, getting to the heart of things we deal with everyday."

This year, the girls also spent a weekend helping local voters with registration and education. They were ready and willing to help educate young voters about the city wide elections.



Phi Mu: Makeover Home Edition

by Ryan Posniak
Photos: Courtesy of Phi Mu
Spread: Austin Richardson

About a year ago, Phi Mu member Mary Michael Joiner was approached by Phi Mu's housing directors about being in charge of an exciting new project, redecorating Phi Mu's chapter room. This junior nursing major was chosen to head the project because she had mentioned working on it previously and the girls said that Joiner had a very well organized and color coordinated room. Therefore, they figured she would be great for the job.

This project was Joiner's first time to redecorate a space and she went into it having no idea what to expect. She figured it would be a simple task; she would get money to decorate a room, pick what she liked and then hire people to do it, simple. Little did she know that the project she thought would take three months would take about a year to complete.

The project started by getting forms from Nationals about the redecorating process. Joiner chose and put together all of the samples for the floor, walls and furniture fabrics. She also had to get two to three estimates a piece for everything that was to be changed or altered in any way. She also hired movers to clear out the room during remodeling and was constantly in touch with their Chapter Advisor and Financial Advisor. Joiner never thought to gather a committee to help her because she thought it would be a simple task. However, as the project grew, she had to recruit a few close friends to help her out, which was easy because she always had Phi Mu girls in the house to help.

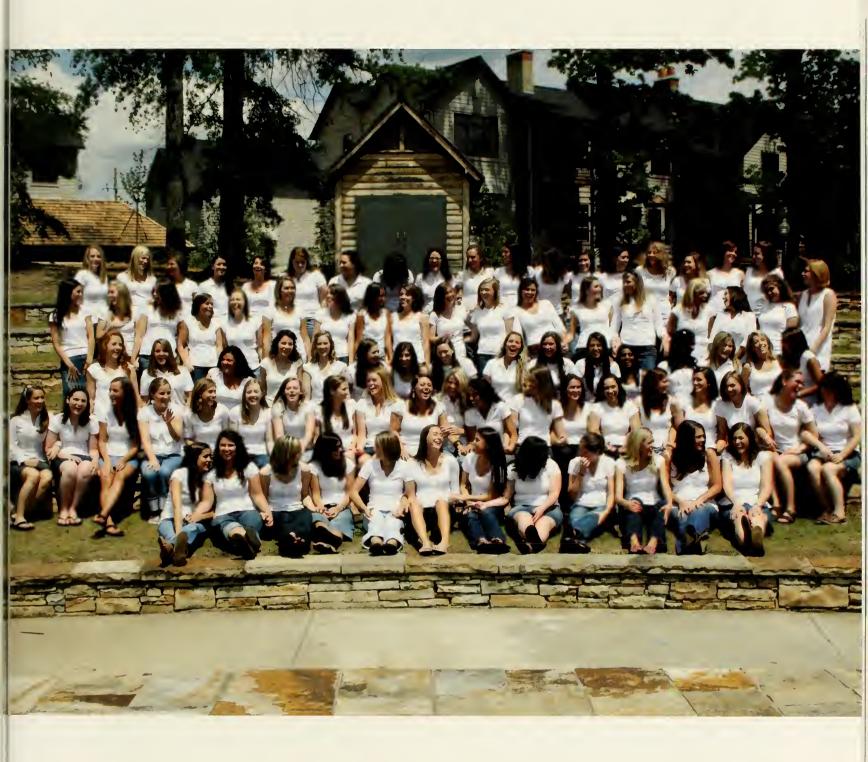
The best part for Joiner was the opportunity to be the one who got to make the decisions about the new chapter room. She enjoyed picking the colors and fabrics. When she started the project, she knew that she wanted to choose

colors that reflected Phi Mu's personality as a whole. She says that the girls in her chapter inspired her choice for the décor. The colors she chose were happy, young, fun, exciting, bright, cheerful, friendly and laid back. She hoped that people would feel welcome in the Phi Mu house and that they would feel "at home."

With these thoughts in mind, she set out to design the house and here is what she came up with. She thought that people should be taken by surprise when they walk in the door, so she chose a bright raspberry pink color for the foyer. The parlor room and chapter room are a butter cream color which is more calming and serene. Once she chose the colors, it was easy for her to find the tan fabric to go along with it. The chapter room is an easy place to relax in because of the décor. It almost feels like you're at the beach. Accent pillows and wall décor also give the chapter room a great feeling.

Joiner said, "In the end, I think everyone was really happy with the results. It was definitely a huge transition from what we had before, but I think we all feel a little more at home here now."





Zeta Tau Alpha: No Less Than Exceptional

by Emily Sparks

Photos: Courtesy of Zeta Tau Alpha

Spread: Austin Richardson

Zeta Tau Alpha has successfully completed another year of service, sisterhood and socials. The members have worked hard to put together various events to raise awareness and funds for their national philanthropy, the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation and Breast Cancer Research and Awareness. They have also supported the all-Greek community service by participating in tutoring and clean-up days at McElwain Elementary. Zeta sent volunteers to

the Mercedes Marathon, Habitat for Humanity, Old Howard 100 and Boo at the Zoo as well. Their efforts in the area of service have been no less than exceptional.

Although Zeta is involved in a variety of service-based organizations, the members invest the majority of their time in the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation. "We love our philanthropy because it is very feminine and it is something that has affected almost every Zeta member in one capacity or another," says Zeta President Brittany Gray. One ongoing project to support the Foundation is collecting Yoplait yogurt lids honoring the brand's commitment





to donate ten cents for every lid collected to the Susan G. Komen Foundation. This year, Zeta continued with tradition making "Think Pink" baskets for cancer patients. Each basket is filled with pink items such as stuffed animals, stress balls, lotions, finger nail polishes, shower cards, brochures and candy. The "Think Pink" Chair, Katie Cotten, delivers the baskets to hospitals in Birmingham on behalf of the chapter.

In March, Zeta initiated a "Storm the Dorms" effort to increase awareness of breast cancer around campus. The members handed out pink cookies and information about breast cancer to women in sorority quad, Vail, Beeson Woods, the food court, the Cafe and the library. "'Storm the Dorms' was very successful and caught the attention of many students around campus," said Gray. "We wanted to make our philanthropy more apparent on Samford's campus. Breast cancer can affect women of all ages, and we felt that targeting the college women on campus would have a great impact. Our main goal was to remind girls to do breast self-exam and have their check ups."

The annual Mr. Samford pageant on April 12 was another way for Zeta to raise money for the Susan G. Komen Foundation. Besides requiring a fee for participants and an entrance fee for the event, Zeta also made monthly calendars featuring each participant in hopes of raising generous funds to donate to the Foundation. The calendars went on sale across campus, reaching faculty, staff and students.

Aside from fundraiser events, Zeta has placed a special emphasis on sisterhood this year. Their efforts proved successful when the chapter brought home the "Zeta Tau Alpha Sisterhood Award" at Zeta Day on February 17 in Birmingham. The chapter went to the Dawson Retreat Center to spend time overnight together. Each Monday night, sisters gather to cook dinner for one another. Other events include watching Grey's Anatomy every week in their chapter room, tailgating before football games, Bible studies and accountability groups. Each of these events brings the sisters together, allowing them to grow closer to one another and appreciate the bond of sisterhood.

Lambda Chi Alpha: Holding Court

by Ashlyn Stallings Photo: Courtesy of Lambda Chi Alpha Spread: Austin Richardson

It was all spikes and sets for the Greek community one sparkling Saturday in April. Perhaps it was for the glory of winning, or maybe the waterslide, but either way, many Samford students spent hours on a sunny day playing volleyball. The brothers of Lambda Chi Alpha held a beach volleyball tournament on April 28th to raise money for Kid One, their target philanthropy. The round-robin tournament took advantage of the court adjacent to the Lambda Chi house. It featured co-ed and all-girls teams vying for titles, as MVP, Runner-up and other trophies were up for grabs.

The sky could not have been clearer—last year's rain was a long ago circumstance. Drew Davis impressively planned the event, which he began working on months before. A DJ kept tunes blaring all day, motivating participants and spectators alike. The brothers of Sigma Chi and sisters of Zeta Tau Alpha claimed bragging rights in their respective categories. The Lambda Chi's were welcomed on the courts as well: Michael Shorrosh was fond of his role as scorekeeper, while Bill Kirkland enjoyed playing in the games.

As the night fell, a bonfire was sparked and even more fraternity and sorority members came to the Lambda Chi house. Sub sandwiches and burgers hot off the grill were available to all. Katie Lackey, intramural chair for Alpha Delta Pi, was pleased that "everyone mixed together," and noted that the brothers "were excited about the tournament."

Kid One is an innovative program specific to Alabama, serving to transport children and expectant mothers who don't have transportation to medical care. As Lambda Chi supports Kid One, it helps expand the 32 county regions into all 67 Alabama counties. Children are able to attend routine medical checkups, dental screenings and mental or emotional health services because of Kid One. The event raised \$700 for Lambda Chi's philanthropy. Drew Davis also hopes that "the tournament will only get bigger, building from the past year," and commented that "it has given Lambda Chi a great chance to give Kid One more recognition and make the fraternity more visible on campus." The success of the beach volleyball tournament was not only beneficial to Kid One, but the Samford Greek community as students enjoyed a leisurely Saturday.



Pi Kappa Phi: Pushing for a Cause

by Kelley Cotten Photo: Courtesy of Pi Kappa Phi Spread: Austin Richardson

The brothers of Pi Kappa Phi are known around campus for many different things such as the way they "boo" each other during Step Sing or their amazing formals at the beach. But there's one thing that the brothers of Pi Kappa Phi really want to stand out for, and that's their charity organization.

Pi Kappa Phi's charity organization is the Push America Foundation. Push America was founded in 1977 by the Pi Kappa Phi fraternity as a service to help enhance the lives of those with disabilities, especially children. The brothers of Pi Kappa Phi hold leadership conferences every year in order to spread and discuss the importance of understanding and excepting people with disabilities on college campuses.

Throughout the year, the brothers of Pi Kappa Phi work to raise funds and awareness for the Push America foundation. The brothers of Pi Kappa Phi are still, to this day, the only Greek organization to develop and maintain its own National philanthropy.

The brothers of Samford's chapter of Pi Kappa Phi have developed their own unique fundraising strategies over the years. The most successful fundraiser the brothers have done in the past years is their homecoming weekend fundraiser. During homecoming weekend, the brothers of Pi Kappa Phi take turns pushing each other around in a wheelchair all over campus. They choose to do this because it allows the brother in the wheelchair to experience what life would be like if he were disabled. Also, while pushing the wheelchair all over campus, the brothers of Pi Kappa Phi seek to spread knowledge about the importance of understanding that people with disabilities are first and foremost just people. Each brother takes a turn either riding in the wheelchair or pushing the wheelchair as they ask for donations to help support Push America for the many years to come.

Homecoming weekend is an ideal time for the brothers of Pi Kappa Phi to spread awareness about Push America because there are a lot of people on Samford's campus. This past year, the brothers of Samford's chapter of Pi Kappa Phi raised over \$1,000 for Push America during homecoming weekend alone. The brothers of Pi Kappa Phi are not only passionate about their parties and brotherhood, but also about supporting their national philanthropy.



Sigma Chi Sweeps Up

by Ryan Posniak Photo Courtesy of Sigma Chi Spread: Austin Richardson

This year at Greek Awards, Sigma Chi walked away with several highly esteemed awards. One of the highest awards being Outstanding Chapter of the Year. This award recognizes a Greek organization that has been involved in several different projects and that has raised the bar yet again. The Outstanding Chapter of the Year award has only been given out two times in the past four years and the Pi Chapter of Sigma Chi has won both times.

After several grueling seasons of different sports including flag football, soccer and softball, Sigma Chi also took the award for intramurals. They won the Intramural All-Sports award. Over the years, the guys of Sigma Chi have won more all-sports awards than any other male Greek organization on campus.

Alumni have a large role in the success of a Greek organization, and in this case, the alumni of the Pi Chapter of Sigma Chi helped their active members win yet another award. the Outstanding Alumni Newsletter.

Grade point average awards were big for Sigma Chi this year as well. They took three GPA awards home to their house: Highest New Member GPA, Highest Overall GPA and Chapter Above All-Fraternity GPA Average.

The men of Sigma Chi also took home an award for their amazing fundraising for their philanthropy, the Children's Miracle Network. The men of Sigma Chi raised over \$10,000 for Children's Miracle Network through their philanthropy event Derby Days. Derby Days is a week-long event of different activities such as a scavenger hunt and field day. This year ADPi, AOPi. ChiO, Phi Mu, ZTA, Independent Ladies and other outside contributors participated to help raise money. All of the organizations enjoy Derby Days and the guys have such enthusiasm for their teams and for their fraternity. Their passion and excitement for the event keeps everyone pumped for the entire week.

Sigma Chi also helped raise money for McElwain Elementary School. The school has been on the verge of closing, but thanks to the efforts of Sigma Chi along with the rest of the Greek community, the school is still open. Several of the guys from Sigma Chi also go and help tutor the children at McElwain. Recently, money raised by Greek Life was able to purchase a new playground for the students.

The men of Sigma Chi have accomplished a lot this year and nothing less is expected out of this amazing group for next year. Ben Buchanan, Sigma Chi President, said, "We are excited about our success this year. Personally, I'm glad the Greek community recognizes all the hard work we've put into this campus and into our brotherhood."





Sigma Nu: Moving Forward

by Rachael Lamb Photos: Courtesy of Sigma Nu Spread: Austin Richardson

The lota chapter of Sigma Nu is making strides to better themselves as a fraternity. They are doing a better job of raising money for their philanthropy, St. Jude Children's Hospital, and have even added a new charity to their name, the Christopher Reeve Foundation.

Former Commander Daniel Crane says the fraternity is striving to make improvements.

"In the last year, Sigma Nu has been making great strides to improve in several areas," Crane said. "We are really working to improve our academics and athletics and increase our community service. We raised several thousand dollars for charity and we hope to win the community service award again this year."

This year, the fraternity that has been on campus the longest started a new philanthropy project called the Charity Bowl. In May, they played Pi Kappa Phi in a baseball game to raise money for the Christopher Reeve Foundation. They received the idea from Ole Miss, who started the tradition 15 years ago.

Sigma Nu also held their annual Sigma Nusball in November, which raised over \$8,000 for the philanthropy St. Jude Children's Hospital. Four sororities competed against each other in a flag football tournament, and wrote letters to their families, friends and Samford professors, asking for donations to the hospital. The lota chapter was behind only the Univer-

sity of Minnesota in making the most money in the nation for their Sigma Nusball.

They also helped build houses for Habitat for Humanity and participated in the Cystic Fibrosis Walkathon.

Senior biology major and Lieutenant Commander Ike Baker says the diversity within the fraternity has extended this year.

"This year, we have had a greater diversity in our members," Baker said. "I feel we have tried to break the stereotype people have of us. We are just good all around people."

Sophomore accounting major Parker Gilbert said the brothers of Sigma Nu are striving to be the best this year.

"We have always had a really committed and strong group of guys," Gilbert said. "We have made a lot of verbal commitments, but now we are actually doing them. We are working toward our goal of becoming the best Sigma Nu chapter in the nation."

Gilbert said the skills he has learned by being in a fraternity have helped him in other areas of his life.

"The opportunities I've been able to do in college through service and fellowship, such as volunteering for St. Jude and McElwain, were made possible by being in a fraternity," Gilbert said. "Because I am the Senior IFC representative and have gained a lot of business skills from being a Sigma Nu, these things will help me down the road."

Senior biology major Michael Dove says the relationships that he has made while in the fraternity are what make it special.

"As a senior, I value the fraternity more than before because I realize how great the relationships I've made have been," Dove said. "It's not about the name Sigma Nu itself, the name alone means nothing – it's about the guys in it."

Crane said he has learned so much by being a part of Sigma Nu,

"Sigma Nu has been a great experience for me," Crane said. "My fraternity brothers are some of my best friends, and we have a lot of fun together. In the last year, I had the opportunity to be the Commander of Sigma Nu and it was an incredible learning experience."

"I have some best friends from home that I've known for 20 years, and in two years time, I've gotten just as close with my friends from the fraternity," Gilbert agreed.





Sigma Phi Epsilon: Building on Brotherhood

by Allyson Dewell Photos: Courtesy of Sigma Phi Epslion Spread . Austin Richardson

Though small in numbers, Sigma Phi Epsilon is full of virtue, diligence and brotherly love. Nationally, SigEp is one of the largest organizations with 275 chapters across the country that Samford's chapter will contribute to more and more as the brothers continue to grow.

SigEp is a strong organization on campus holding many of the same values as the other fraternities. These values include developing gentleman, scholars, athletes and leaders, but their rush process varies from most.

Junior Austin Richardson states, "We are the most diverse brotherhood on campus. We do not sign people to become a SigEp, we sign people because they already are SigEps. They just don't know it yet." Upon signature, the new brothers do not have to pledge, they have full access to all of the membership privileges. With these many characteristics that set SigEp apart from the rest, they plan on growing in number and gaining a reputation on campus as one of the best fraternities at Samford.

In the midst of their struggle to stay on campus, SigEp has lasting brotherhoods because they accept the individuality of the brothers. The guys frequently have campouts, road trips to each other's hometowns, cookouts, mud football games and date nights. One brother said, "Our struggle has brought us closer to each other and our alumni. Even though we are the smallest organization on campus, we have the best friendships anyone could ask for. It is a connection as soon as you sign a bid, or meet one of the guys. We just can't explain it."

Spending time with each other, whether all together or just around campus, the guys have a passion for the growth of their organization. They live their fraternal virtues amongst each other as they become balanced young men across campus and in the community. The guys tutor in Birmingham, have food drives for hunger and contribute to their national philanthropy, Youth AIDS awareness and prevention.

As a growing organization on campus, the brothers of Sigma Phi Epsilon have a renewed passion to better their fraternity by coming together and promoting themselves both in the Samford and Birmingham communities.





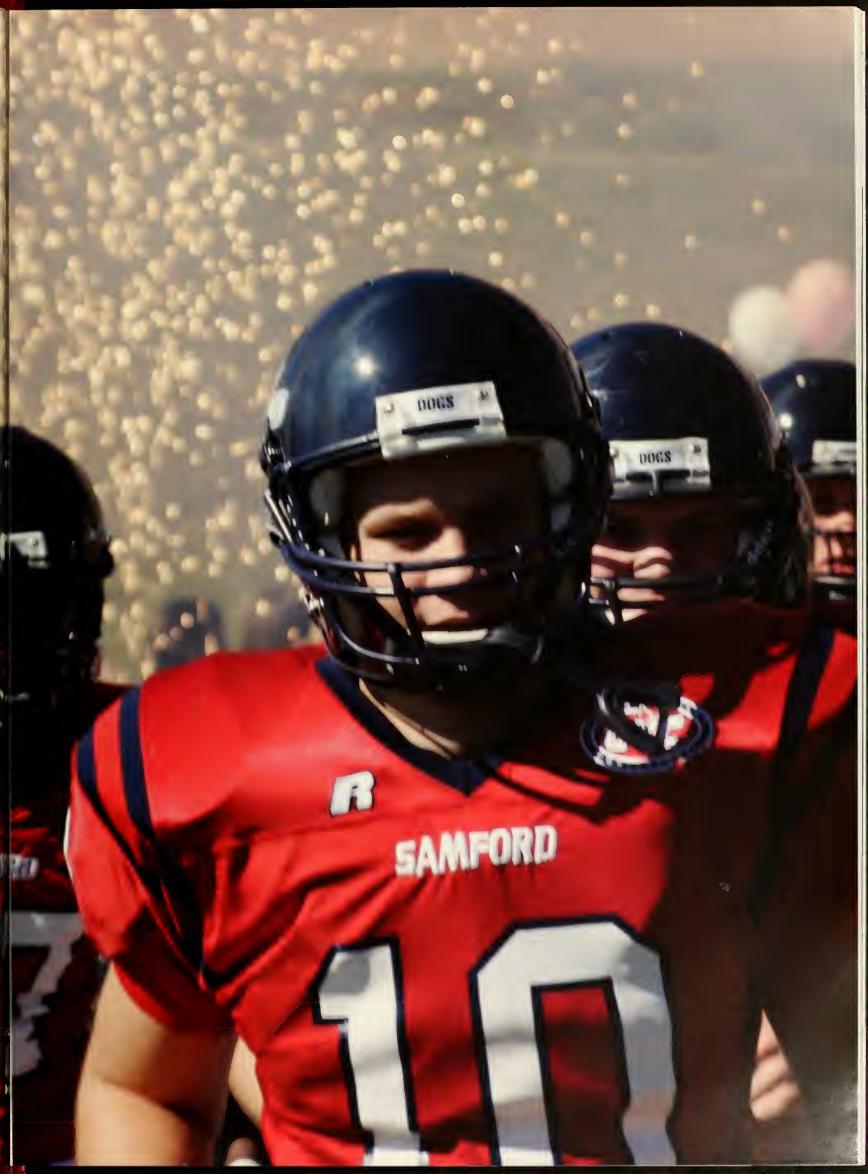


Compete

Samford athletics has been a growing interest for students and fans over the past several years.

With the addition of new coaches, new players and new facilities, things are only looking up for Samford's Bulldogs. Whether it's intramurals or a university team on the field, court or track, many Bulldogs have dripped blood, sweat and tears and know what it really means to compete.



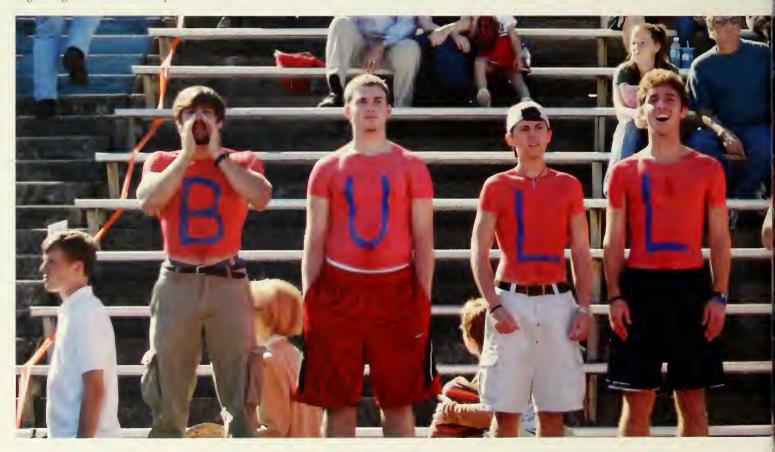


"The Red Sea membership fee was the best five dollars I ever spent!" exclaimed freshman Elizabeth Windley. Red Sea Ultimate Tailgates are attended by hundreds and are held in the end zone at Seibert Stadium before home football games. The tailgates usually include meals from Papa John's or Q'doba's along with milk and cookies from Barber's. Tailgates provide an opportunity for students to socialize before the games and to watch the teams warm up. Many students were pretty excited about all the benefits of their Red Sea membership package this year. The package included a Samford t-shirt, a six-pack of Coca Cola, a discount card, a gift bag and numerous opportunities for free meals and promotional giveaways at Samford athletic events.

Harwell Goodwin Davis, the fifteenth President of Samford University, once said "The student body makes the spirit of an institution." Sophomore Gavin Mayo, President of the Red Sea, understands this concept. That's why he paired up with junior Emily Goette in the winter of 2005 to found The Red Sea. originally called the Fear the Window group. The Red Sea is Samford's student booster club. Today it claims over one thousand members, making it one of the largest organizations on campus. The Red Sea is

A Sea of Support

by Taylor Marie Kardoes Photos: Jonathan Haas Spread: Austin Richardson



governed by Gavin, along with Ruth Amagliani, Tim Ansley, Tarlie David, Allyson Dewell, Matt Scales, Brittany Tedford and Daniel Temple. Together they comprise the Red Sea Committee. These students meet to discuss promotions, plan events and brainstorm more ideas to increase The Red Sea's membership numbers and gather support for Samford athletics.

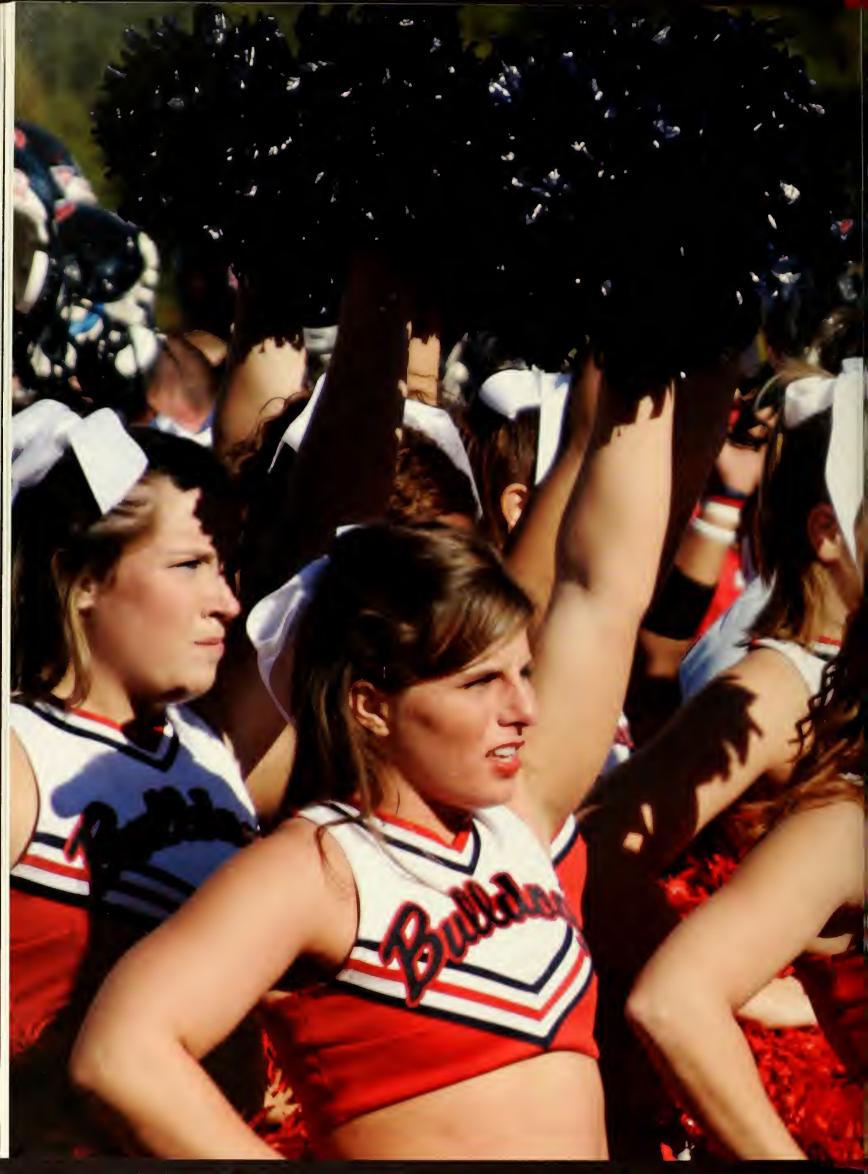
Throughout the year, students receive giveaways and coupons from The Red Sea sponsors which include: Smoothie King, CiCi's Pizza, Full Moon BBQ, Vestavia Bowl, McCormick and Schmidt's, Coca-Cola, Express Oil, Papa Johns, SportClips, Locos Deli and Pub, Domino's Pizza, Firehouse Subs and SoHo Sweets. The athletic department also designates seating sections for Red Sea Members at home athletic events. For the first time this year. The Red Sea provided different t-shirts for different athletic seasons. Students received fall sports shirts at the beginning of the fall semester and in November, winter sports shirts were distributed along with Dawg Rags, towels used to cheer during Samford basketball games.

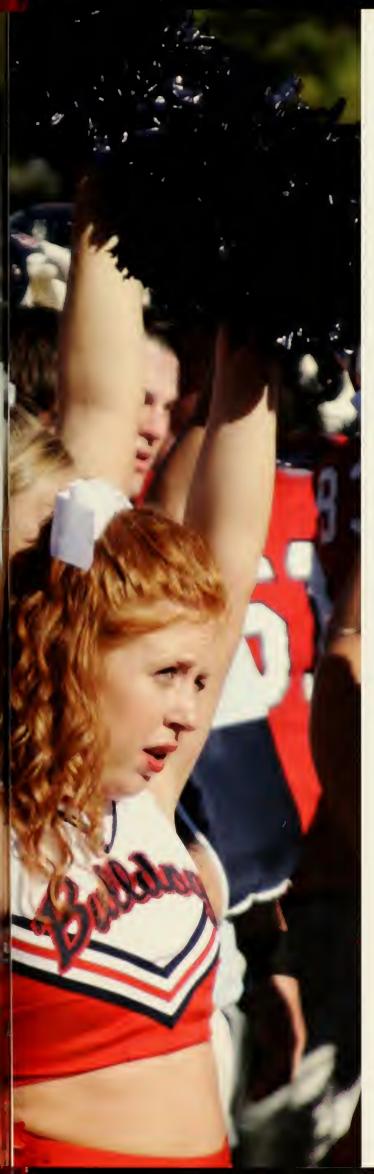
The Red Sea's mission is to provide more student support at Samford Athletic events, and it has done just that. Students now come to games early to take part in Ultimate Tailgates or

to receive free giveaways. Students in Red Sea shirts flood the student section at football and basketball games. The Red Sea has also increased support for Samford's smaller sports programs such as volleyball and softball. The Red Sea calls itself "the team behind the team." The booster club works together as a team with its leadership, members and sponsors to boost Samford Bulldog support. This increase in school spirit has a positive effect on many different groups at Samford. The athletes and coaches appreciate the increased attendance and support. Students enjoy the games more with a full fan section, and alumni proudly watch current students support one another and the Samford red and blue.



ABOVE: Several devoted fans line up to show their support





Where Samford Spirit Begins

by Ashlyn Stallings Photo: Jonathan Haas Spread: Austin Richardson

As the Samford University cheerleaders charge on to Seibert Stadium's field with energized and complex tumbles, they exemplify solid technique united with soaring spirit. The summer NCA Cheer Camp competition judges at Vanderbilt University noticed their genuine recipe for success, awarding the squad the third place trophy against squads like Purdue and Middle Tennessee State University. But the girls continued to impress, receiving a bid to compete at the NCA College Nationals held in Daytona, Florida, reminding us of last year's same accomplishment. The Bulldog cheerleaders hope to continue this tradition and become Samford's first cheerleading squad to compete at a national competition. After leading two summer camps for school-age girls, the Samford squad also held a cheer day camp for future Bulldog fans in September, inviting them to be a part of Samford game-day festivities.

All this despite a lack of facilities and equipment? Perhaps it is the 6 a.m. workouts three times a week, in addition to the bi-weekly practices, tumbling and of course, the games on weekends. Or maybe it can be attributed to the relationships formed over well-deserved Cheesecake Factory desserts. Blake Ellenburg, a junior co-captain, decides, "With struggle comes change, but with change comes accomplishment." Though she is leaving the squad to focus on her nursing major, Blake looks back with a bittersweet smile on the squad's achievements and the impact she has left.

Head Coach Mary Nagle Ussery has also made her mark on Samford cheerleading. In her second year at Samford, Ussery and assistant coach Niva Roberson have developed the program into a physically demanding and emotionally rewarding endeavor for the fifteen girls.

The freshman class brought a surge of spirit to Samford athletics, aiding the cheerleaders as they continue to encourage student body participation. Freshman Morgan Hargrove equates practice to "hanging out with sisters," goofing off when allowed and cracking down when there is work to do. Samford cheerleading is like a mini-family on campus; the relationships formed only add to the list of achievements the squad continues to deliver. At the rate they're tumbling, the girls won't be slowing down anytime soon in competitions or friendships. Ready or not, here they come...

by Nathan Troost Photos: Jonathan Haas Soread: Austin Richardson

Playing with Heart

With 17 seniors and 18 returning starters, Samford came into the 2006 football season with high expectations. However, the Bulldogs didn't expect to finish the season with a 3-8 overall record and to head into the off-season looking for a new head coach. "We had high expectations that we didn't meet," Redshirt sophomore running back Marcus Rice said. "But that's just more motivation for next season."

Even though the Bulldogs may not have fulfilled their expectations, there were many accomplishments that can be carried into next season as they leave 2006 behind and look ahead to 2007.

Samford's kicking game was among the elite in the Ohio Valley Conference. Led by senior punter Chris Hicks, the Bulldogs finished first in the OVC with an average of 41.8 yards per punt. Hicks finished second individually in the OVC with an average of 42.2 yards per punt. His longest was 61 yards.

Junior kicker Shannon Fleming led the Bulldogs to a top conference finish in field goals. Fleming knocked home 12 of 14 field goal attempts, 85.7 percent.

On the offensive side of the ball, the Bulldogs possessed a good amount of talent. Samford returned their starting quarterback but brought in two more making the quarterback position as reliable as a slot machine. Bulldog fans went into each week wondering which quarterback they would get to see.

Redshirt junior Jefferson Adcock was last year's starter but was forced to switch roles often with redshirt sophomore Dante Williams. Redshirt sophomore Alex Mortensen, a transfer from the University of Arkansas, completed the quarterback roulette. All three quarterbacks completed more than 50 percent of their passes, but Adcock and Williams received the bulk of the playing time.

Fifty percent is a good number when you think that each throw could be your last. "It was really hard to get in a good rhythm on the field," Adcock said. "Once you did something wrong, coach took you out and your confidence would then go down, and it made it harder to be as productive the next time out."

Junior wide receiver Jeff Moore was the primary target for the Bulldog quarterbacks this season. Moore finished third in the OVC in receptions per game with 4.45. Moore finished the season with 49 total receptions, five for touchdowns.

Freddie Young, senior wide receiver and one of the team's four captains, also made a large contribution to the offense. Young finished fifth in the OVC with 4.27 receptions per

game. The 2006 season was Young's last as a competitor for the Bulldogs, but he hopes to come back next year to share his experience and help in any way he can.

Samford's leading rusher, Marcus Rice, averaged 4.8 yards a carry. Senior Justin Ray and freshman Brock Johnson joined Rice in the backfield averaging 4.4 and 5.2 yards a carry respectively. With those numbers ranking among the top in the conference, Rice and Brock hope to improve even more during the off-season to bring back a potent running duo for the Bulldogs.

Samford also performed well on the defensive side of the ball. Despite losing All-American Cortland Finnegan, who was drafted by the Tennessee Titans, the Bulldogs put up a couple of strong numbers in the OVC. Samford finished second in the conference in pass defense giving up just 154.4 yards each game. T.C. Myers, senior defensive back and team captain, recorded two interceptions and 32 tackles as he led the Bulldogs against opponents' aerial attacks.

Samford also finished fourth in sacks with a total of 18. Senior linebacker Steve Tennin collected the bulk of that sack total, posing as a legitimate threat to any opposing quarterback. He recorded five sacks on the season, second in the OVC.



ABOVE: Senior Justin Ray makes a run for it.
RIGHT: Freshman Jonathan Lowery is caught by two UT Martin players during the catch.





ABOVE: The team pauses for the Alma Mater.

RIGHT: The defensive line is set to defend their home territory.

Sophomore linebacker Rodney Shepherd led the team in tackles and finished 8th in the OVC with 82 total.

Sure, Samford had a disappointing 2006 football season. But that season is over, and the team looks forward. Despite losing 17 seniors, the Bulldogs will return some key players: its leading rusher, its three potent quarterbacks, its OVC-leading field goal kicker and its leading tackler. And you can expect those lead players to work hard during the off-season. "No one's money is guaranteed to them," Rice said. "It is renewable each year so it is kind of whoever gives more effort."

With the strong returning class also comes new players and more importantly a new coach. Samford hired former UAB Offensive Coordinator Pat Sullivan shortly after the 2006 season to replace Bill Gray as the Bulldog head football

coach. Sullivan joins the Samford family as its 35th head football coach. The 1971 Heisman Trophy winner, who played at Auburn University, had much success coaching quarterbacks and running backs during his time at UAB. He also has experience coaching at the Division I-A level as he led TCU from 1992-1997 and served as an assistant to Pat Dye at Auburn for six seasons.

Sullivan said in his opening press conference that he couldn't be more excited about making the move to the Bulldog family. He is ready to lead Samford into a new season and to renew its winning ways.

"This next year we have been given a fresh start," wide receiver Moore said. "And after last season everyone is on a clean slate."

A clean slate. What will Samford make of it?



Statistics

- Samford 2nd in Pass Defense giving up 154.4 yards a game.
- Samford 1st in Punting averaging 41.8 yards/punt
- 5th in Total Defense giving up 324.9 yards/game
- 3rd in Punt Returns averaging 9.5 yards/return
- 4th in Sacks with 18 total
- 2nd in sacks against, with giving up only 12
- 1st in Field Goals with 12-14, 85.7%
- 2nd in Kickoff Coverage with net average of 41.1 yards/kick
- Jeff Moore, 3rd in receptions with 4.45 Rec./game, 60-yard long, 49 total, 5 td's
- Freddy Young, 5th in rec. with 4.27 Rec./game, 28-yard long, 47 total, 1 td
- Jeff Moore 3rd in Receive Yards/Game with 60.7
- Chris Hicks, 2nd in Punting with 42.2 Yards/Punt, 61-yard long
- Shannon Fleming 2nd in Field Goals/Game with 1.09
- Steve Tennin 2nd in Sacks with 5 total
- Rodney Shepherd, 8th in tackles with 82 total
- Marcus Rice, Leads team in Rushing with 322 total yards, 4.8 yds/carry,
 2 td's, 41-yard long, 29.3 yds/game; top in the conference is 5.5 yds/carry
- Rodney Shepherd, Leads team in tackles with 82 total, 61 solo





Sullivan story

by Nathan Troost

Photos: Becky Ellenberger, and Pat Sullivan

Spread: Nick Holdbrooks and Austin Richardson

As Samford moves into its final year of competition in the Ohio Valley Conference, it also makes a move into what many are calling the "Pat Sullivan Era." Indeed, the former Heisman Trophy winner has made the move to lead the Samford Bulldogs on the gridiron. Sullivan brings with him a new coaching staff, 20 upcoming freshman and two UAB transfers.

Sullivan comes to Samford from UAB where he had served since 1999. From 1999-2005, he worked with the team's quarter-backs and was the offensive coordinator. He became the assistant head coach and running back coach in 2006.

Prior to his days at UAB, Sullivan served as the head coach at TCU from 1992-1997. There, he led the Horned Frogs to back-to-back winning seasons for the first time in 42 years. Before becoming the head coach at TCU, Sullivan served six seasons as an assistant coach to Pat Dye at his alma mater, Auburn University. While coaching at Auburn, the Tigers won three Southeastern Conference Championships in the late '80s.

In his days as an Auburn quarterback in the early '70s, Sullivan was named an All-American and the SEC Player of the Year in 1970 and 1971. He then won the Heisman Trophy in 1972. After college, he went on to play professional football for five seasons.

Despite such an impressive resume, the former NFL player said that he can think of two important lessons he will apply to his career at Samford. "You build relationships that last for a lifetime," he said regarding athletics. "And every day is a different experience that you can learn from."

"Pat Sullivan is an ideal choice to lead Samford's football program," Samford President Andrew Westmoreland said of the Bulldogs' 35th head football coach. "As I have come to know him, I have been impressed with his integrity, his competence, the breadth and depth of his relationships, his commitment to faith and family and his deep concern for students."

After growing up in Birmingham, Sullivan couldn't think of a better place for him to be. Much of his family lives in the Birmingham area and will be able to attend all of his home games. In fact, he jokingly said that he wouldn't be surprised to see 100 family members cheering him and the team on in the stands. "Samford is the perfect place for me," Sullivan said simply. "This is the right place for my family and me."

Samford has enjoyed the process of adopting the former Auburn star into the Bulldog family. "It has been a wonderful experience getting to know Pat during this process," Athletic Director Bob Roller said. "And I am as enthused as ever about the potential for Samford football under his leadership."

Sullivan will be leading many new Bulldogs to join the team from last year. This spring, he is hiring an entirely

new staff. He also brings with him two transfers from UAB: quarterback Seth Harkness and running back Chris Evans. Both were recruited by Sullivan at UAB and wanted to stay under his command. "Being recruited and coached by Coach Sullivan has really given me a chance to develop a great relationship with him," Evans said. "He is a man that's going to always be real with you, and he will give you that tough love when you need it too."

As far as making the transition from UAB to Samford, Harkness and Evans have said that both their teammates and the faculty and students at Samford have been helpful. "It's been great so far," Harkness said. "I'm getting to know all my teammates, and they have been really good in trying to make me and Chris feel like a part of the team on and off the field."

Joining the team along with the two transfers will be 20 upcoming freshmen. "I can't wait to get them started," Sullivan said about his first Samford recruiting class. He said that he probably knows them better than the rest of the team because he spent so much time with their families during the recruiting season.

Despite all the changes in the football program, Sullivan says that the goals and expectations shouldn't change. "Our goal is to improve every week," Sullivan said, "and to compete for the conference championship."

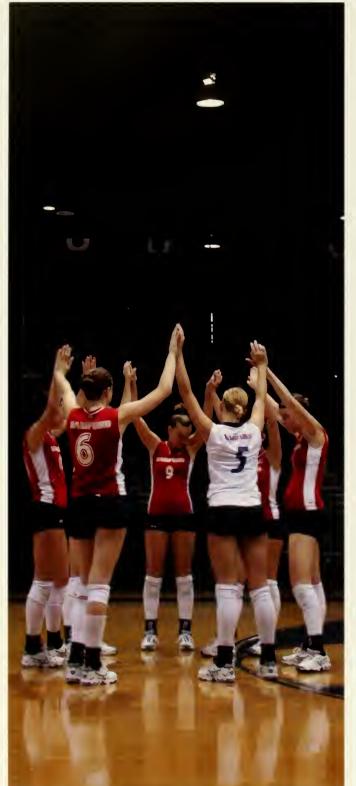
Will the "Pat Sullivan Era" be marked by conference championships? Only time will tell, but one thing is for certain: the Bulldog faithful have much to look forward to in the coming years.



Overcoming

Obstacles Photos: Spread:

by Taylor Marie Kardoes Photos: Bob Miller Spread: Austin Richardson



Volleyball is known for being tough on ankles, knees and shoulders. Constant jumping and the impact from landing wears on players' joints. Hitters suffer from shoulder injuries caused by the continuous, repetitive motion. The wear and tear of the game causes most players to experience pain throughout their late high school years and their entire college careers. "lcy Hot" becomes a gym bag staple, and many players ice ankles, knees or shoulders daily. Sprained ankles are one of the most commonly occurring injuries, and sometimes, surgeries are required to replace cartilage or torn ligaments. Most of the time, injuries are minor and remedied quickly.

However, minor injuries were not in the cards for the Lady Bulldogs this year. Early in the fall, the team battled several serious injuries that sidelined two team starters for the entire season. The team's setter, sophomore Jackie Jascz from Franklin, Tennessee, tore her ACL in practice prior to the team's first conference game. This injury ended her season. Senior outside hitter and Louisville, Kentucky native Callaway Logan tore her labrum, a ligament inside her shoulder joint. She underwent two surgeries which unfortunately, turned out to be a career ending disappointment.

Despite these injuries and the loss of these key players, the Lady Bulldogs rallied together. "The injuries forced us all to step up." said freshman outside hitter Alyssa Trimpe. The team focused on communication and teamwork. They overcame physical and mental blockades by emphasizing their strengths and improving their weaknesses. Many younger players stepped up to fill important positions. All the girls worked together by shuffling positions and playtime to compensate for their injured teammates. The team even won two matches without a setter.

While the team had more losses than they would have liked, they had several major victories. In September at home, the team won three consecutive matches. They conquered Louisiana-Monroe 3-0, UNC Asheville 3-0 and Kennesaw State 3-1. More importantly, the girls came together on the court and played as a team. The Lady Bulldogs bonded together to overcome adversity. They gained strength and character from their struggles.

"This season was a great growing season. We all pulled together and learned how strong we really are," said freshman outside hitter Katie Luckman

Next year, the team will have added depth and more experienced younger players. Only one senior graduated this year, which leaves Samford with a full roster of returning players. The team and its fans look forward to next season and all that it will bring.



LEFT: The team huddles up for some quick pre-game encouragement. **ABOVE:** Freshman Alyssa Trimpe goes up to return the ball.

Going the Distance

by Bennett Sumner
Photos: Jon Londeen
Spread: Austin Richardson

In the wind, rain, and mud, Samford's Cross Country team ran mile after mile this past year trying to shave a fraction of a second off their time.

With only six chances to compete in the 2006 season, the runners learned how to lead, follow and encourage one another.

Coming into the season as the reigning OVC conference champions, the women's team had a lot to live up to. Having lost four seniors from the 2005 team, senior nursing major Katherine Herring became the team's front runner.

After an injury just before last year's regional meet, Herring spent most of the spring and summer recovering and training for this year's season. "During the 2005 regional I just collapsed and didn't run very well," said Herring. "It took a lot of hard work to get back in shape both physically and mentally for this season, but it was worth it."

The women's team competed in four regular season meets and finished well in each of them. They placed second at the University of Tennessee-Chattanooga Opener. fourth in the Great American Invitational, fifth at the Auburn Invitational and third in the Front Runner Invitational.

Finally, after a successful but hard season of injuries and recoveries, the women finished the year after coming in second at the conference championship. "We did well this year, but we didn't win like we had expected," said Herring. "I hope that placing second will put a competitive fire in the team for next year."

The team is looking forward to a fresh start for next season. "In the beginning of this season, everything was going great, but then one by one people just started dropping off," said junior journalism and mass communications major Britney Almaguer. "So for next year, I'm looking forward to having everyone healthy so that we can enjoy the season and really use all of our potential."

The men's team came into this year's season with anticipation for new opportunities. Last year, the team had seven competitive runners and was made up of three freshmen and four sophomores. "We never really expect much from the freshmen, so last year, because we were so young, we had a lot of catching up to do," Joel Shaw, sophomore runner and business major, said.

However, this year, though the team took in three freshmen again, there were two sophomores and four juniors which changed the dynamics of the rookie team. "This year, we got to see everyone improve drastically," said Shaw. "And next year we will be much better because we'll be older and have the experience we need to be competitive."

The team finished fourth in the University of Tennessee-Chattanooga Opener, fourth in the Great American Invitational, fifth at the Auburn Invitational and second at the Front Runner Invitational. The men then closed out their season with a fourth place finish in the OVC championship.

"We had a lot of breakthrough performances throughout the season, but unfortunately, we just couldn't get it together for the championship," Cameron Bean, sophomore pre-dental major, said. "We really hoped to come in second, but next year we'll just put in high-mileage practices and hopefully win the conference."

The men and women's teams have high expectations for next year's season. "I think that this season was definitely a rebuilding year," said Herring. "I can't wait to see the juniors step up as seniors next year and learn how to lead the pack instead of stay comfortable in the middle."

This season gave the team the chance to grow not only as individual athletes, but also as teammates. "We're a very close-knit group," said Shaw. "A team isn't made with just one great runner. Everyone has to contribute to make a winning team."

It is this closeness that characterized the season and is getting the running Bulldogs ready for 2007. "It was a great bonding time because we had to learn to depend on each other," said Almaguer. "I'm looking forward to next year and giving it all of my heart to reclaim that championship title again, and hopefully place high in regionals."



ABOVE: The women's Cross Country team displays their Championship rings during one of the football game halftimes.

BELOW: Freshman Blaise Carie heads towards the finish line at the Great American Cross Country Festival at Spain Park, Alabama.



No Pain, No Gain

by Britney Almaguer
Photos: Courtesy of the Samford Crimson
Spread: Austin Richardson



"No pain, no gain"— a well-known athletic proverb that the Samford Track and Field team knows by heart. Sacrifice and dedication are two terms that both the women and men execute on the track at 3 p.m. daily during the season. All of their hard work paid off on May 5 when the team set out for the final meet of the season, the Ohio Valley Conference Championships. The meet, held over a two-day period in Charleston, IL, resulted in fourth place for the men and sixth place for the women.

More than a few athletes proved themselves at this crucial meet. The performances of two however guaranteed them a spot at the NCAA Regional race. Lauren Blankenship stood out with amazing performances in the 5,000 meter and 10,000 meter races earning first place in both. Michael Smith also earned a spot in the NCAA Regionals, running the 400-meter hurdles in 52 seconds taking second place. He also placed second in the 110-meter hurdles with a time of 15.02.

Other notable performances included Katherine Herring's second place in the 1500-meter run with a time of 4:35.93 and all-OVC honors. Morgan Tyler earned all-OVC honors and set a personal record in her third place finish in the 400-meter hurdles in a time of 1:02.31. Michael Hanson, his appendix removed two weeks prior to the meet, took an impressive second place as well as a personal best in the 3,000-meter steeplechase in a time of 9:24.46.

In the field events, Cameron Cardwell's tie for first in the pole vault with a 11'11.75" setting both a new championship and O'Brian Stadium record. Jon Londeen placed third in the same event earning all-OVC honors. Morgan Tyler placed sixth in the triple jump with a 38'3.25".

On May 25, Blankenship and Smith represented Samford in the NCAA Regionals in Columbia, MO. Blankenship placed second in the 5,000-meter with a time of 16:17.77. She later competed at the NCAA Championships in the 5,000 meter

race. Not only did she earn All-American honors for the second time in her running career, but she also set the school record with a time of 16:06.

With the '07 season behind them, many of the Samford track athletes are looking forward to next year when they can again show their talent. Junior mid-distance runner Sean Rogers said he is "excited to give everything I got and give it all out on the line."

On the field, sophomore Lawton Goethe is eager to be a part of "the starting stages of growing a better program." While the throwing team saw a couple of new faces this year and have added javelin as an event in which they will compete, the throwers will be looking forward to gaining more experience.

Leaning on another popular quote, "the will to win is worthless, without the will to prepare," the Samford Track and Field team will be ready to prepare for yet another season.





More Than Just Ability

by Megan Christians Photos: Jonathan Haas Spread: Austin Richardson

While some students are packing for another school year, the women's soccer team is already practicing for their preseason games.

Starting in early August, the 27 memberteam get ready for another season. This year, eleven returning starters lead the Bulldogs to a winning record.

"We had the first season in Samford's history where we never lost a game in the conference (OVC)," junior Devon Paris said.

The one game that stands out in everyone's mind was Eastern Illinois, the game that put the lady Bulldogs in first place.

"We had never beaten them at home, and we beat them in double overtime with 45 seconds to go," freshman Paige Lanter said. "It was amazing when we won, because it was the day before Homecoming and fireworks went off right after we scored."

But as with any sport, a win is not as sweet as when you can share it with the fans and your teammates.

"We are so close it is like having 26 sisters," Lanter said. "I think that is why we play well together. We play for each other."

As usual, the seniors were given the role of leader, and these women started the season out on the right foot with "team building activities."

"They brought so much to our team, not only with their ability in the game of soccer, but also with their lively and energetic attitude both on and off the field," Paris said.

To have a winning season, it helps to have a talented coaching staff. Head Coach Todd Yelton and his team positively push each player to be the most she can be. It is a relationship built off of mutual respect, a respect that carries them throughout the year.

"The coaches not only care about our athletic development, but they also are focused on our development as student athletes and getting the most out of our college experience," freshman Jenna Sturgill said.

"They genuinely love each player and want the best for each individual, even if that does not mean a 'W' on the scorecard," sophomore Marchele Olds said.

This year two specific players received high honors. Seniors Amber Cress and Sharon Young were named to the 2006 O'Reilly Ohio Valley Conference All-Tournament Team.

Yet, all good things must come to an end, but not without a little fun. The historic season was topped off when the women got together to roll the coaches homes with toilet paper. All in the name of team spirit, of course.



ABOVE: Junior defender, Jamie Stout, defeats Morehead State player for the kink

LEFT: Freshman forward, Natalie Fleming, leads the ball down the field.

More Than a Club

Rachael Lamb
Photo: Bob Miller
Spread: Austin Richardson

Although they may not be affiliated with Samford University, many Samford students continue to pursue their talent of soccer by playing for a men's club team.

The men's team (2-8) played many larger schools this season including Auburn, Alabama, Vanderbilt, University of Florida, University of Mississippi, University of Florida and a Birmingham club team as well.

Although the team started out strong with a win over the University of Alabama, the motivation on the team began to slow down toward the end of the season.

Senior sports medicine major Lee Wright said that although the season started out well, the support began to weaken towards the end. "I enjoyed our home games," Wright said. "We had a lot of fans come out and a lot of excitement."

"We started the season out playing really well," Wright expressed.
"However, due to the fact that the girls' soccer coach controls the field schedule, we only had three home games. After our home games were finished, the support level for our team went down because fans couldn't see us playing."

Senior business major Justin Mize talked about the lack of motivation the team had towards the end of the season. "I thought the season started out very strong," he said. "However, due to a lack of motivation and no system of accountability for our players, devotion to that good season slowly faded and came to a crashing halt in Tupelo at regionals." Junior English major Jay Lasater agreed, "The season started off on a great foot, but as the season wore on, the team had less members show up to practice and our play on the field suffered."

Lasater said despite the games lost at the end of the season, the team still came together in the end. "Even though we started to lose games at the end of the season, we still had a blast doing it," he said. That's why I love playing for the team. No matter how hard we fall, we have each others love to lift us back up on soccer wings of joy."

Senior biology major and coach of the team, Kyle Jones, said the strong competition against the larger schools makes playing more exciting. "I really like having a club soccer team, especially since we don't have a men's D-1 team at Samford. No one expects us to be competitive like the big schools we play, and it is fun consistently giving them good competition and sometimes beating them like we did Alabama."

"Our fan support is really impressive," Jones said. "We had over 500 people at our game against Alabama. When we travel to other schools, none of them have the fan turnout that we have, so it is really cool for us. We just wish we could get some more home games, but we are appreciative for what we get."

The difficulty in not having a school-sponsored team is finding a coach that will volunteer to do the job. As a result, the team has a student coach.

"Coaching is tough because we are all the same age," Jones said. "It is hard trying to be a leader when all we really want to do is hangout and play soccer, but it is fun to see it work out when we play a big game at home and win against a big school."

Jones says he hopes the Samford administration will recognize the need for a men's soccer program. "We hope that the administration at Samford would recognize how much the students like soccer here and would think about taking steps to possibly bringing a men's soccer program to Samford. I think the students, faculty and future students would really like to see it happen."

Jones says the efforts by others to make the men's team more official has been appreciated by the players. "The coolest part about playing is just getting together and having a good time. We don't take ourselves too seriously, but we like winning too. I hope that we can keep it going and keep getting better. Several people have really helped us to become more official, and we look forward to the future."



No Big Dance, But a Good Run

by Jonathan Flowers Photos: Andrew Childers Spread: Austin Richardson

Entering the 2006-2007 men's basketball campaign, the Samford Bulldogs were picked by many publications to be crowned Ohio Valley Conference champions for the first time in school history. Despite such optimistic forecasts, the team finished its season at 16-16, going 12-8 in conference play and ended their run for an OVC title and NCAA Tournament bid with a 55-65 loss to Austin Peay in the conference semi-finals. What may seem to some like a year marked by disappointment was actually a testament to the Bulldog's resiliency and fight through even the toughest of circumstances.

Samford made a bold statement in the selection of this year's first opponent, the defending national champion Florida. In spite of a 54-79 loss to the Gators, the Bulldogs hung tough in front of 11,798 fans on hand at the O'Connell Center in Gainesville. "I thought that our team fought hard against a very good team," head coach Jimmy Tillette said of the loss. "Florida is the defending national champ for a reason and Gainesville is a very tough place to play. I saw a lot of good things from our team." The team went on to play games against such national powerhouses as LSU and Arizona, a testament to their dedication and commitment to progressing as a program.

On an individual basis, a large portion of the team's success this past season can be credited to senior guard Randall Gulina. Playing in Tillette's Princeton-style offense, one that's goal is to slow down the tempo of a game and typically decrease scoring, made Gulina's OVC-leading 18.1 points per game average that much more impressive. "Randall was one of our toughest guys this past season," said Tilette. "He always played with a big heart. All our guys like and respect him."

Redshirt sophomore guard Jason Black summed up the team's praise for their leading scorer by commenting, "It's pretty simple with Randall. He goes out there and plays his game every night. No matter what, he's always going to go out there and lead the team to the best of his ability. He's a clown off the court, but on the court, he's always focused and always does whatever it takes to win." Randall was named to this year's All-OVC first team as well as receiving All-OVC tournament team accolades. His 579 points of the year was the seventh-highest single-season total in Samford men's basketball history.

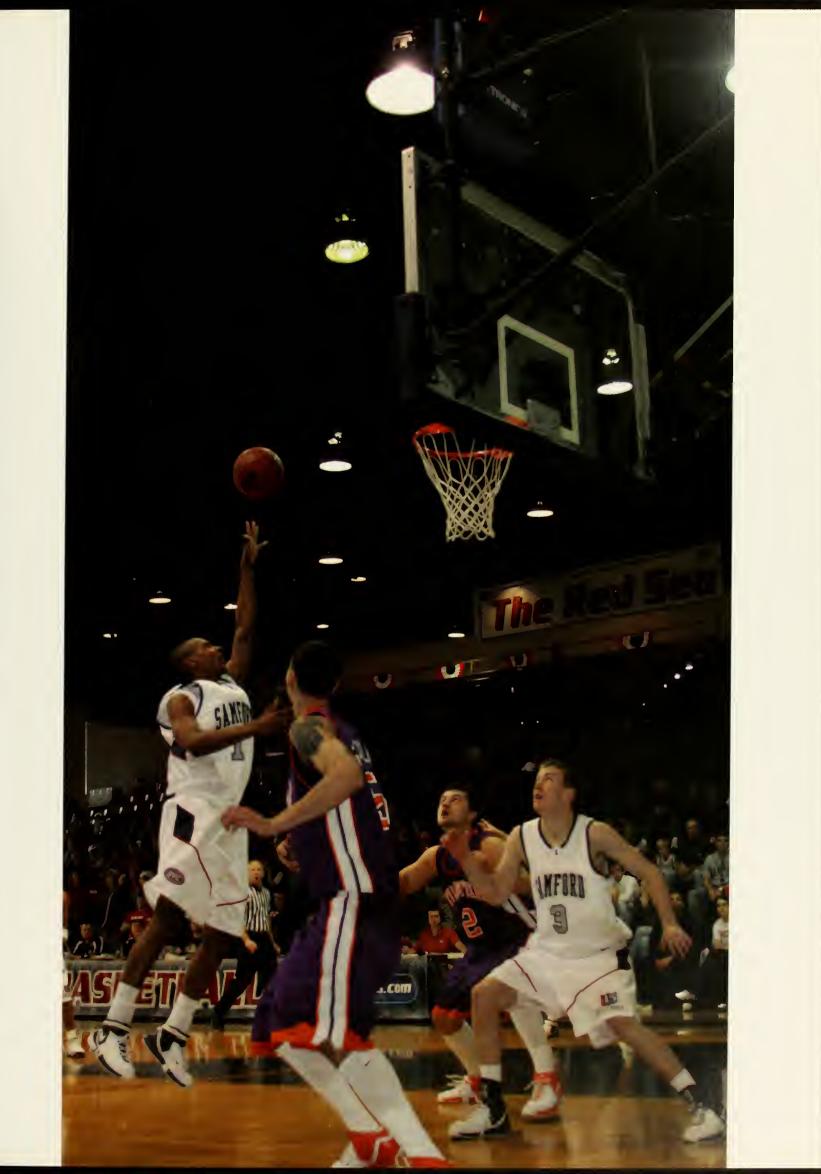
Even with such outstanding individual play, Gulina could not have carried the team by himself. Center Travis Peterson and guard Jerry Smith both contributed greatly to Samford's

success, averaging double figures in points, Peterson with 11.3 a game and Smith adding 10.3. They also led the team in rebounds, Peterson at 5.0 per game and Smith at 4.7. Junior guard Joe Ross Merritt chipped in as well with 8.8 points and 3.4 rebounds per contest. The Bulldogs lose only two players to graduation while returning eleven next season.

Despite falling just short of the school's first OVC championship in basketball and trip to the Big Dance, the Bulldogs can be proud of what they accomplished in their 2006-2007 campaign. Although they lose starting guards Randall Gulina and Jerry Smith, other key players from last year's squad are ready and willing to step into their roles and provide Samford with continued on-court success next season. With a brand new arena, optimistic fans and three returning starters backed by a revamped bench, look for the Bulldogs to avenge last season's tournament defeat and in their last year as members of the OVC, aggressively challenge for next year's OVC title.



ABOVE: Randall Gulina, senior guard, takes a jump-shot. RIGHT: Junior guard Curtis West goes up for a shot.







ABOVE: Curtis West looks for open options. LEFT: The team regroups before taking the court.



Hanging On

by Whitney O'Steen Photos: Andrew Childers Spread: Austin Richardson

Their last season in Seibert Hall may not have led to an Ohio Valley Conference championship, but the bulldogs pulled a winning season out of a challenging year.

After the death of former Samford student and lady bulldog Sarah Clement in December 2006, the team rallied to piece back together their winning team. "Losing Sarah was the biggest struggle we had as a team this year," said junior forward Alex Munday. "We had so many hurdles we had to overcome, but we were there for each other and comforted whoever needed it at that time. We became an even closer team and shared an even stronger bond."

Everyone felt the pain of losing their former teammate, especially the seniors who knew her best. "Mentally, it was a tough year," said senior guard Chelsee Insell. "We had to come together for support and encouragement after a devastating loss."

The bulldogs, unprepared for such a loss, got back out on the court and made Samford history, finishing 18-3 overall and 12-8 in their conference, making for back-to-back winning seasons for the first time in bulldog history.

The year started with a loss to Alabama 62-53, then the team came back to win four games in a row. Following a season of ups and downs, the team eventually earned a spot to the OVC championships after its win over Eastern Illinois 70-49. The team went on to host Tennessee Tech in the first round of the 2007 tournament after winning 6 of its last 7 games. But unfortunately, it would be the last home game for seniors Insell, Veronica Pike and Tish Pilkerton. "They have been here as long as I have," said head coach Mike Morris. "They are everything I want the program to be about: great people, great students and great players. They represent who we are on and off the court."

But their goal of winning the OVC has yet to be reached. "We coulda', woulda', shoulda'," said Mornis. "We were picked first in our conference and fell a little short, but this team had diversity and many obstacles to overcome. I'm extremely pleased with all that we came through."

Though their chances at an OVC title were shattered during semifinals after their loss to the top-seeded Southeastern Missouri Redhawks, the bulldogs still had reason to celebrate.

Junior forward Munday was named first team All-Conference for the OVC 2006-2007 season. Munday led Samford in scoring, averaging 14 points a game and second on the team in rebounding following freshman guard Monica Maxwell. "I wasn't surprised, but I didn't expect it," said Munday on making first team All-Conference. "I made second team last year, so I made it my goal for this year to make first team. It was a great accomplishment."

Munday is Samford's all team leading scorer with 1,294 career points, while ranking seventh in the league in scoring (14.0 pps). She is number one in the league in three-point field goal percentage (41.5%) and ranks third in the conference in free-throw percentage (84.6%).

After Munday's list of high achievements, she gives all of her praise to her coach and teammates. "I love hanging out with my teammates, they're so funny," says Munday. "I enjoy any time spent with them whether it's on or off the court." And as for Morns, she thanks him for his dedication to the team and attributes much of their success to him. "He is a huge factor in the success of women's basketball at Samford. He came here five years ago and was out to do whatever it took to turn the program around. I wouldn't want to play for anybody else."





ABOVE: Veronica Pike gets ready to take a shot.

RIGHT: Junior forward Alex Munday prepares for a free throw against Austin Peay.



Takin' the Field

by Jonathan Flowers
Photos: Andrew Childers
Spread: Austin Richardson

Samford's baseball team hasn't been to an amusement park, but the beginning of the 2007 season resembles a roller coaster ride.

Quick out of the gates, Samford won four of their first six games. The team then suffered five consecutive losses before a crucial 4-2 victory over Mercer and a 2-1 victory over Memphis. The team hoped the win against Mercer, which defeated Samford 6-4 and 13-0 in the first two games of the three-game set, signals the Bulldogs are back on track.

"During the five-game losing streak, everybody was pressing and not relaxing," junior outfielder John Morgan said. "After the win, everybody feels confident as we move toward the future. We're really looking forward to making a statement over our next several games."

The key to many of the team's wins this year has been jumping out to an early lead. The Bulldogs are 5-0 when leading after the second inning and 1-5 when they trail. Samford is also 4-1 when scoring in the first inning as compared to 1-5 when their opponent does.

Senior infielders Louis Rojas and Parker Gargis have supplied much of the offense this season, ranking first and second on the team in batting average, home runs, slugging percentage and on-base percentage.

Rojas, a first baseman out of Miami, started his collegiate career at Florida State before eventually transferring to Samford. In nine starts this season, Louis has a batting average of .333 with two home runs, four RBIs, and a team-leading .471 on-base percentage. Rojas pulled his hamstring against Auburn and will probably miss two more weeks.

Gargis has started each of Samford's first thirteen games, leading the team in batting average (.367), home runs (4), slugging percentage (.653), and total bases (32). Together the team's offensive leaders have supplied stability to a team that has had trouble consistently scoring runs this season.

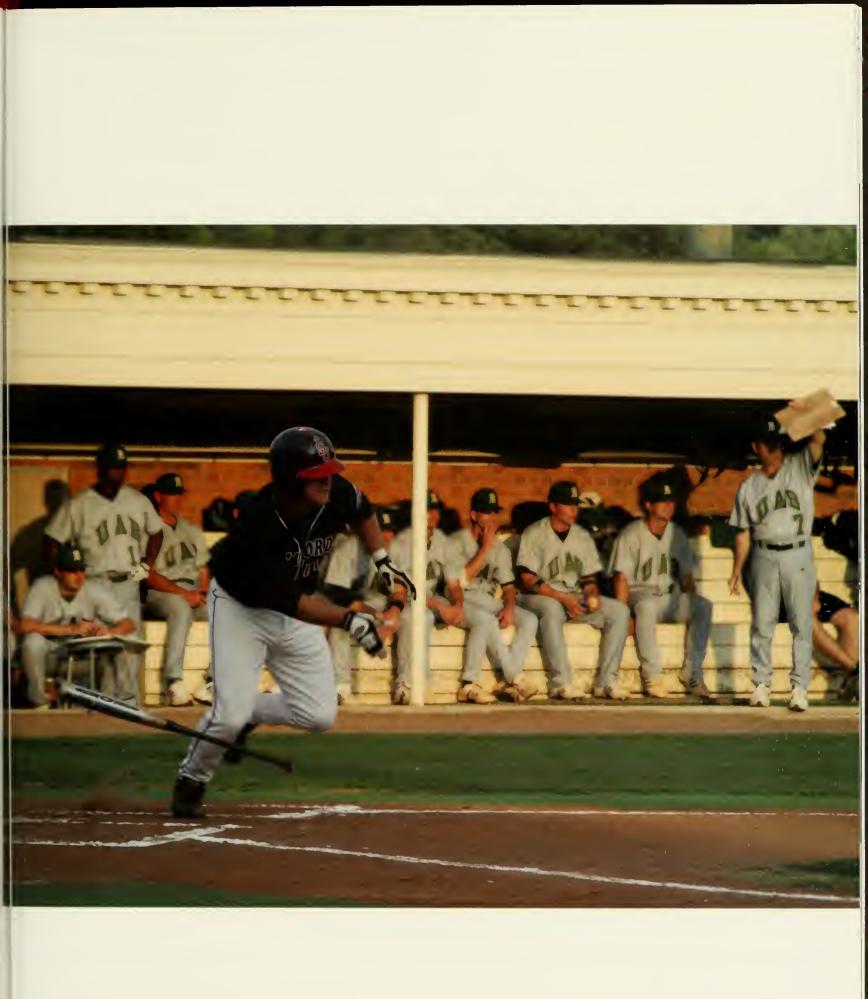
Pitching, too, has been an up and down battle to this point. Senior starting pitchers Chandler Tidwell and Josh Emke as well as junior starter Trent Hill have all been effective. All three have 2-1 records. Tidwell pitched a complete game four-hitter against Memphis to improve his ERA to 1.44 and tie Ehmke for the team lead in strikeouts with 16. Hill holds a

2.84 ERA and has struck out 13 in 19 innings.

The bullpen is struggling. Other than senior Joseph Edens and sophomore Benji Waite, who boast a combined 1.80 ERA, the collective earned run average of Samford relievers entering Wednesday's game was 4.44.

Sophomore relief pitcher Davey Knapp blamed fundamentals. "I think that our struggles so far as a staff are about not executing pitches. We need to go out with more focus and determination to get the ball down in the zone and lower our number of walks. We have to make better pitches and better sequences, and I think we will start to turn things around," he said. "We also have to tip our cap to the other teams. We've made some good pitches and they have done a good job of hitting."

Samford baseball has a large amount of talent based on preseason predictions and awards. As the season progresses, the Bulldogs will try to iron out their kinks and reach their full potential. After playing Memphis, the team will begin a three-game series at UNC-Ashville on Friday and will return home to play Alabama at 6 p.m. March 14.



SAMFORD

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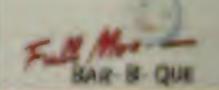
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Setting Softball Records

Samford softball seasons have been marked by increasing success and 2007 was no exception. Led by head coach Lee Anne "Beanie" Ketcham, the team worked together to beat major rivals and set school records.

"We had several big wins this year, beating Ohio State, Mississippi State, conference rival Tennessee Tech and we swept conference foe Eastern Kentucky. We also broke several team records, including most wins with 31," Ketcham said.

The Bulldogs ended the regular season on a positive note with a win over first place Tennessee Tech, securing them the number 3 seed in the OVC tournament.

"Not only were we in third place, but we also beat the top team," senior family studies major and team captain Liz Pearse said. "We got a lot of wins and beat every team in the conference. Beating Tennessee Tech was huge."

The season ended officially in the OVC tournament with a 3-2 loss to Eastern Kentucky. Despite the defeat, Ketcham and the rest of the team were confident in their tournament performance.

"Our goal for the day was to go out and play with everything we had and to walk off the field with no regrets," Ketcham said. "I think that we accomplished that and our team played its heart out."

The 2007 team was led by four seniors: graphic design major Jenna Dempski, sociology major Susanna Meyer, family studies major Liz Pearse and business major Shelley Stanley.

"This season, we definitely had some key upperclassmen that really led the way and it was a good season for us," Ketcham said.

The year was characterized by big wins and ended in a record-setting season. However, the team not only faced success, but also some obstacles as they worked their way to the tournament.

"The biggest challenge for most players is time management. It is difficult to try to play at the level we are trying to achieve and attend a school as academically demanding as Samford," Ketcham said. "We give the players a lot more time off near the end of the season and really impress upon the importance of time management."

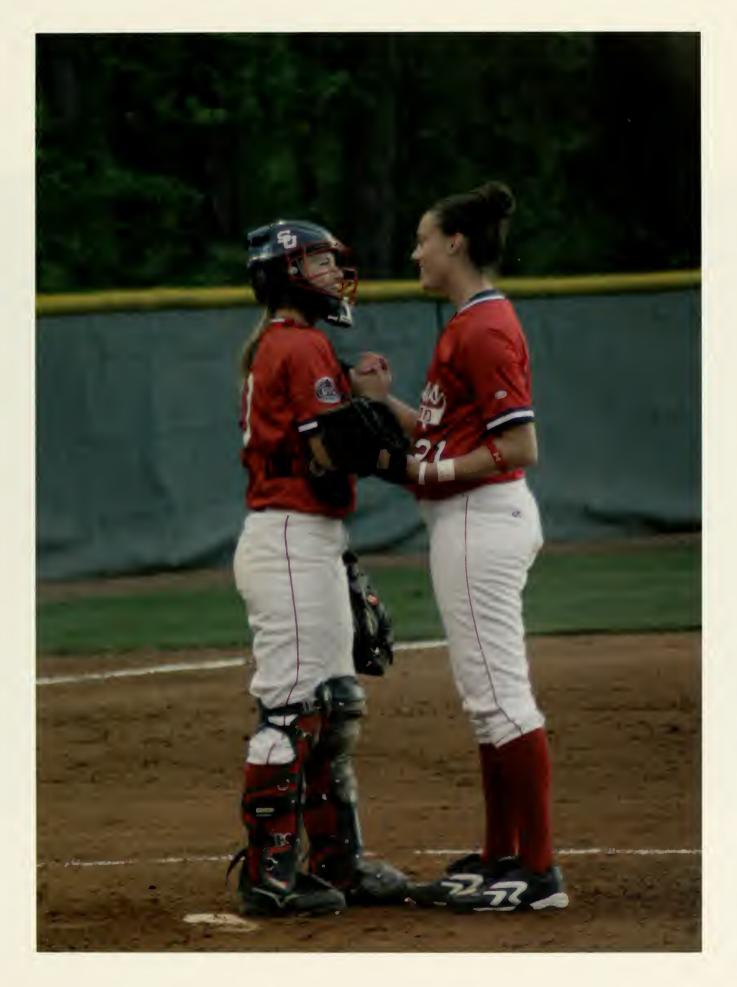
On top of time management, the women also learned to work together and prepare themselves for tough opponents.

"We have learned how to be a team, how to work together toward a common goal," Ketcham said. "We also grew a lot mentally, learning how to focus and not let things get out of hand on the field and how to handle the pressure of big games."

Next year's team will be led by three rising seniors and the players are gearing up for an even better season in 2008 and 2009.

"Our hopes for next season are that we will build on our success from this year with the goal of winning a conference championship and the opportunity to play in a Regional," Ketcham said. by Bennett Sumner Photos: Andrew Childers Spread: Austin Richardson









Swinging for Success

by Bennett Sumner Photo and Spread: Austin Richardson

Golf is a game of control. Controlling your stance, the strength of your grip and the snap in your wrists, all create a beautiful swing with great results. However, a golfer cannot control the wind, the speed of the greens or those moments where your mind begins to wander in a negative direction.

It was through all of these uncontrollable elements that the Men's Golf Team learned the importance of playing together during their 2006-2007 season. Yes, Golf is measured by individual shots and scores, but when they are added together, the individual bogie on the 16th hole belongs to everyone.

"During the school year, you aren't only competing for yourself, but also for other guys on the team, and really for the entire school," sophomore Jeremy Cox said.

This year, the team finished $5^{\rm th}$ in the OVC Championship beating their $8^{\rm th}$ place finish last season, but Cox said that the improvement did not come easily.

"Golf is an up and down game and each one of us went through struggles this year," Cox said. "In a golf team you feed off of each other and how you're playing so we have all had to help each other and come together."

The team played in five tournaments in the fall and five in the spring including the championship, traveling all over the southeast as far as west Florida. Some season highlights included beating South Carolina, ranked 35th in the nation, and the fact that the team's leader, senior business major Reed Davis averaged 73.2 for the season, improving his 74.8 average from last year.

"Reed did a great job as a leader both on and off of the course," Cox said. "This year, when we were traveling together, we would spend four days together straight so we got to know each other like best friends."

The men's golf team definitely improved this past season, and they hold onto hopes of continuing to rise in the championship.



Golfin' girls

by Bennett Sumner
Photos: Courtesy of The Crimson
Spread: Austin Richardson

The majority of the players on the women's golf team came into this year's season with little experience. Made up of two freshmen, four sophomores, two juniors and only one senior, the 2006-2007 season could have easily been classified as a year for growing and rebuilding. However, despite their youth, the team pulled together to make this season one of the best in Samford's golf history.

The team was led by freshman Katelyn Stanier, who ended the season as the individual OVC tournament champion.

"This was an awesome tournament for Katelyn," Head Coach Ian Thompson said. "She basically played flawless golf for three days on a very difficult course."

Stanier was followed by the rest of the Lady Bulldogs who pulled together to earn a third place finish in the tournament, beating their seventh place spot in last year's season. The team scored with Stanier in first with an average score of 74.67 for the tournament, followed by sophomore Kellie O'Connell in seventh place, junior Courtney Warr in 27th place, sophomore Maria Troche in 29th place and sophomore Caroline Herman in 32nd.

"This was a big step up for the team to be in the final group for the last two days," Thompson said. "It was fun to be in that group and feel the competition between the players. Hats off to Jacksonville State. They are a tremendous team and deserved very much to win."

The team started the season in the fall with a second place finish at the BSC-UAB-Samford Tri Match; however, they ended the fall tournaments in ninth place at the Troy invitational.

In the first tournament of the spring, the Ann Rhodes/BSC Shootout, the Lady Bulldogs finished in 14th place. Finally, as the OVC championship neared, the team finished 7th in the Southern Miss Lady Eagle Invitational, with Stanier winning the tournament as an individual in a playoff.

"I really can't believe that it happened." Stanier said. "It was relieving. I was really nervous, but I'm glad that it was a playoff...because I thrive off of that competitive feeling, and I got to see some competitive action."

After a season of ups and downs, the team ended the year with a strong finish in the tournament. The team is looking forward to next year which will include a new head coach. After eight seasons of head coaching, Thompson will step down to become the assistant coach to Woodie Eubanks, who is the current men's golf coach. Eubanks will coach both teams and is ready to build on the 2006-2007 successes.

"I feel we will have the opportunity to develop two strong programs going into the transition into the Southern Conference, with the help of lan Thompson as my assistant, who brings experience and knowledge far beyond coaching into this situation." Eubanks said. "This will be a satisfying experience since we will have two coaches who are Samford alums on the staff. The success of the teams runs very deep and I look forward to the future of Samford golf."





Raising the racket

by Jena Hippensteel Photo: Spread: Austin Richardson

The Men's Tennis team had quite a few obstacles to overcome this past season. Expectations to be better than last season rested upon the boy's shoulders.

The season warm-ups had to take place off campus, which was not easy for the team. Once the construction of the new courts over in west campus was complete, the facility acted as a gift after having the old eight courts torn apart for the new gymnasium.

A total of 10 players made up Coach Kemper Baker's men's team this year with the three seniors Manuel Miletic, Stuart Misner and Bradley Weaver. The five juniors were Hank Grant, Sam Huffman, Sam Rocke, Renan Silveria and Jason Thomas. Sophomore Brian Dushock and freshman Kelwin De Wet also added to the team.

Silvera reflected on the season up to the final tournament. "We worked on some things during the season that helped us to improve as a team. Many times we had meetings and talked about things that we thought would be helpful or that we should improve."

The boys made it to the Ohio Valley Conference O'Reilly Tennis Tournament held in Nashville, Tennessee. The event began on April 20th and was three days long. This was their chance to win their first ever OVC Championship.

The men went up against the Murray State Racers and easily overtook them in the first round. The men won four matches in a row and, since that was all that was needed to continue to the next round, the other matches were left unfinished.

In the semi finals, the Bulldogs went up against the Tennessee Golden Eagles and again came out on top. The men lost their winning streak to the Jacksonville State Gamecocks in the final round 4-1.

"I had a great run on the OVC tournament. We beat Tennessee Tech, a good team that beat us during the regular season. In the final, we lost to Jacksonville State; it was a close match, but they played a little better than us, and we didn't play our best as a team," Silvera said.

Silveria and Misner were selected to the All-OVC first team and Grant was named to the second. Once the season was over, the Bulldogs began preparing for summer tournament play. Grant represented Samford University in the 2007 NCAA Leadership Conference held May 27 in Lake Buena Vista, Florida. Over 300 student-athletes from universities across the nation were chosen to participate in the conference.

For the 2008 season, returning players are going to have to step it up in the absence of seniors who graduated, but with a new year come new hopes of overcoming last year's accomplishments.

The Men's Bulldog Tennis team finished the 2007 season with a record of 15-9. "I think we had a good season, however it was a little bit frustrating for the team because we lost our third conference final in a row," Silvera said. "But I'm looking forward to next year. I think we are getting better every year. If we keep up our good work with coach Baker, we will be successful."

Game, Set, Match

by Jena Hippensteel
Photos: Courtesy of The Crimson
Spread: Austin Richardson

The 2007 season held a lot of promise for the Women's Bulldog Tennis team. The girls were out to win their third tournament victory in four years.

There were a total of eight players that made up the women's team with seniors Christie Baker, Bethany Benson, Sarah McKey and Emily White. Juniors were Anna Jackson and Katie McMiller. Sophomore Whitnie Warren and freshman Whitney Flesher also made up Coach Terri Sisk's team.

After some time, the team was able to play in the new Tennis Facility complete with indoor and outdoor courts, which created much nicer conditions for the hard working athletes.

Jackson believes the girls had a great season and they grew closer as a team due to fewer players, "The best thing about this year was our team of eight. We all are such good friends and that really reflects our attitudes on the court. We are very supportive of each other, and encourage one another till the end. We laugh and joke all the time."

The women's team had a first during their 2007 season. In the final weekend of play, they won matches against Austin Peay and Tennessee-Martin making them undefeated. The wins earned them their first regular-season title.

When the Ohio Valley Conference showed up, the girls were given a break. Because the women finished the season undefeated, they received a bye in the first round of the tournament. The tournament took place in Nashville, Tennessee over a total of three days.

The women started the tournament against the Tennessee-Martin Skyhawks, where the Bulldogs only lost one match, letting them advance onto the finals to face Murray State. Unfortunately, the team lost in the final round against the Racers, 4-1.

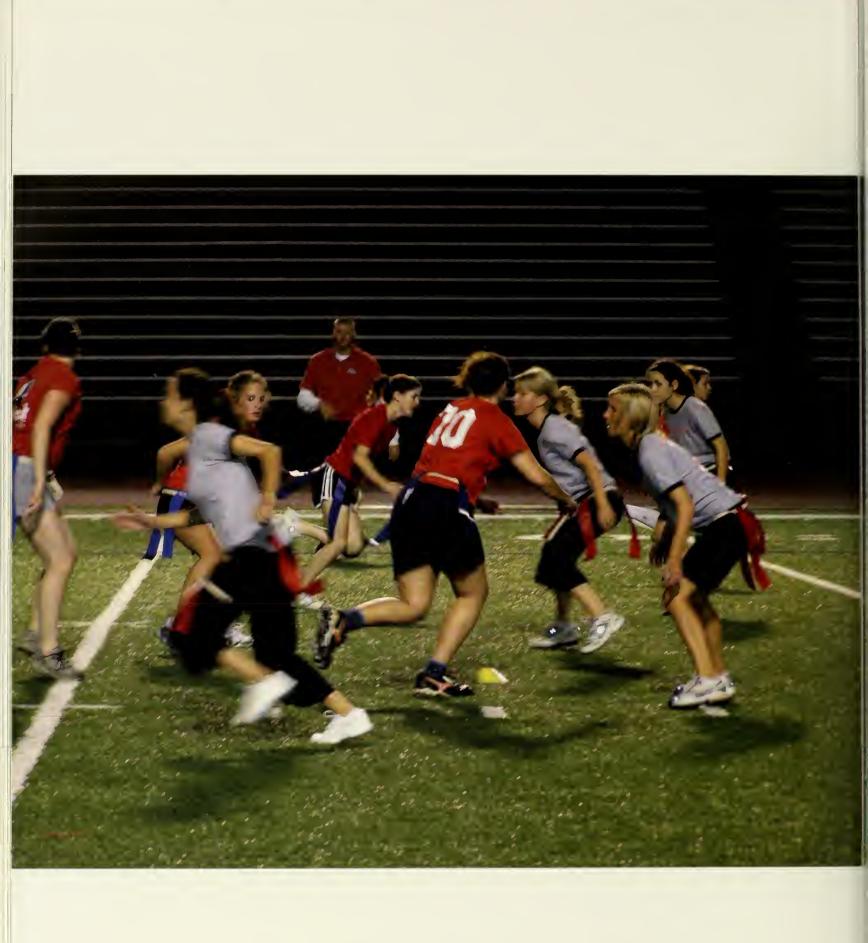
"We had a great season, but we fell short at the Conference tournament. We lost to Murray State, our biggest rival, and really they just outplayed us that day. We gave it our all, but sometimes you fall short," recounted Jackson.

The team's hard work was recognized overall. Sisk walked away from the season as OVC Coach of the Year. Emily White was selected to play for the OVC first team while Whitnie Warren was selected to play on the second team. The women ended the season with a 14-5 record and one bye.

"We love our coach Terri Sisk. She has the best sense of humor and it really makes intense practices seem more light and fun," said Jackson.

Although the team didn't meet their official goal, the season was not a complete waste. Next year, the girls are ready to steal that title back to its rightful owners.





A League of Their Own

by Christopher Smith
Photos: Courtesy of Intramural Players
Spread: Austin Richardson

The 2006 Samford intramural football league started Monday, Sept. 11, on campus and across Lakeshore.

The Fighting Redwoods are determined to defend their 2005 championship.

"We went through the playoffs without giving up a point last year," senior political science major Nick Pritchard said. "It was like 90-0 on the combined score. Obviously, we won't be perfect. We're looking to win the whole thing again and let up a total of 20 points the whole season."

After proclaiming Samford dominance last year, the Redwoods traveled to a regional tournament in Hattiesburg, Miss., to test themselves against the best teams from colleges around the region.

Southeastern conference schools, such as Georgia sent teams to the tournament. The Redwoods played a game Friday and Saturday night in the round-robin portion of the tournament, making it to the final group of 16 before falling to a Southern Mississippi team.

Kris Wood, the team's quarterback, said his freshman hall started the team during the 2002-2003 school year. Most of the original team members graduated, but Wood competes under a clause allowing university faculty and staff to play. Wood has a part-time job at Samford.

Pritchard said about half the team played high school football including Wood, whom he called the Redwood's best player. Pritchard was an offensive lineman in high school.

"I choose to play intramural football because it's fun," he said. "It was awesome in high school, and I'm not good enough to play in college. It's a way to keep that going without spending too much time on it."

Pritchard said the team doesn't have any set plays, but they film all of their games. The day after they compete, they'll watch the film a few times, go outside and throw the football around.

Wood played defense on his high school team, but he is back in his original position with the Redwoods.

"We don't practice much. We've played together for a while so once we get out there, we know what we're doing," Wood said. "We try to go out and throw a little bit just to get in shape, but trust me, we're not there yet."

Wood said the team aims to enjoy themselves within the parameters of a simple equation- "winning equals fun." The team doesn't enjoy losing. He would not make any predic-

tions but said fans should look forward to plenty of fun from the team this year, and they hope to look good in the process.

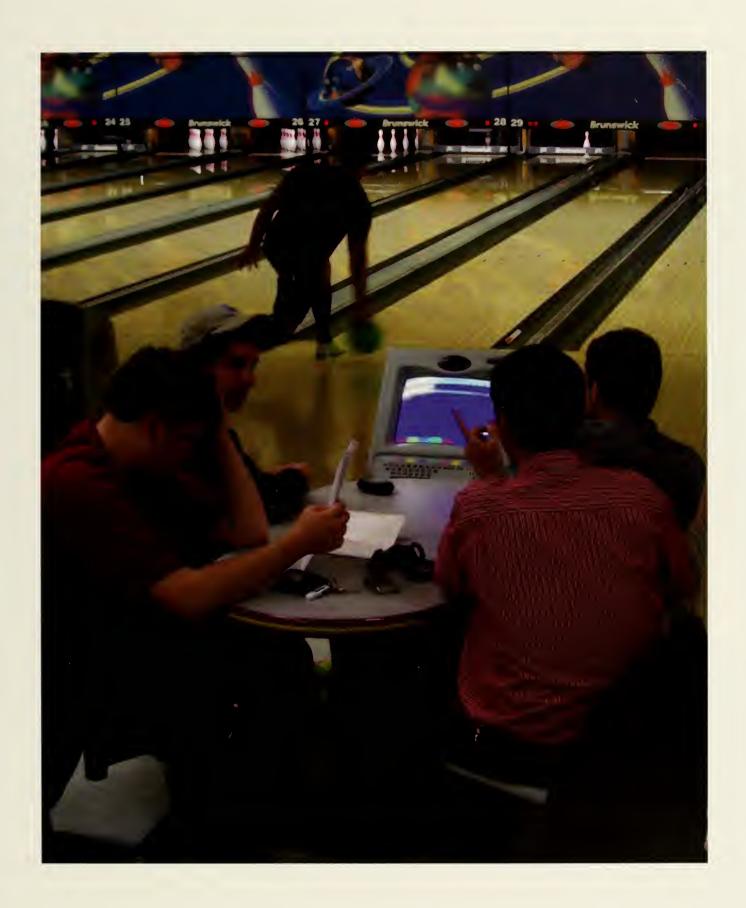
Regardless of their practice schedule, the Fighting Redwoods are out there under the premise of 'serious athletes.'

"It's the closest thing that we'll get to playing college football. It's a good way to bond with your friends. I enjoy getting out there and being competitive," Wood said.

"Flag football is way better than ultimate Frisbee."







Connect

"Extracurricular" is a word that many students at Samford are very familiar with. From large organizations such as SGA to up-and-coming clubs like Global Women, students put hours upon hours into their activities. Samford offers over 100 organizations that students can get involved in; and with that many, it'd be impossible not to connect.





A Spirit of Excellence

by Bennett Sumner Photo: Jonathan Haas Spread: Austin Richardson

We all move to the beat of a different drum, but Samford's marching band and color guard move to four bass drums, one snare drum and one tenor drum. Whether performing at football and basketball games or at different exhibitions, the band focuses on excellence.

That spirit of excellence was first cultivated this past year during Band Camp which started two weeks before the other students moved onto campus. Through rigorous two-a-day practices, the 56 member marching band learned their routine for the year.

"Band Camp was exhausting, but it really bonded us together as a band family," said Emily Holladay, sophomore music major and member of the color guard.

The two week camp allowed new members of the band to get acquainted with each other and for freshmen to immediately become a part of Samford.

"I really felt like I was welcomed with open arms," said freshman John Benton, music major and snare drum player. "We got put into 'band families' that were led by upper classmen who took us out to dinner and to do other stuff. It really added to the camaraderie and helped introduce me to Samford."

While Band Camp was rewarding for its participants, it also came with its challenges. With only 12 seniors, the upperclassmen had a lot of responsibility in introducing the 25 freshmen to life in the band. "It was definitely difficult to blend the new people into the group," Sarah Haslett, junior family studies major and captain of the color guard said. "There were so many different levels of musicians that we had to spend a lot of time integrating them into routine."

After Band Camp, the band had their opening performance on August 31, during halftime of the football game against Miles College. The band may have been a little apprehensive about the performance, but their hard work paid off.

"We were a little nervous at our first performance, but it was incredible," said Benton. "The stands were packed and the crowd was really excited because they hadn't seen our show yet. There was so much energy that we just fed off of it and had a blast."

This year's show was different than those in the past. In other years, Samford's band has performed more classical shows like the 2004 show 'Selection from the Planet' which was a compilation of orchestral pieces that were modified for a marching band. This year however, the theme was



centered on classic rock. It included songs like Led Zeplin's 'Stairway to Heaven.' Queen's 'Bohemian Rhapsody,' and 'Carry on My Wayward Son' by Kansas.

"This year's show was a lot more fun because the music was so exciting," said Haslett.

The band members however were not the only ones who enjoyed the new music. Bulldog fans also noticed a difference. "Half times this year were much more fun than they have been before," said sophomore Spanish education major Katie Nickerson. "It was great to go to games and recognize the songs that were being played."

The difference in this year's band can be attributed to its new director, Dr. James Smisek. Leaving the University of North Carolina at Greensboro to become the interim chair of instrumental studies and director of bands at Samford, Smisek came into the 2006 band season with more than 13 years of experience and a lot of enthusiasm.

"Everybody has just loved having Dr. Smisek as the new director," Holladay said. "He's extremely personal and his love for the students is obvious in everything he does."

Through Smisek, the 2006 marching band set a precedent of excellence and showed the Samford community how to march to six different drums. The members of the band already have hopes for next year.

Haslett wants to see the members of next year's band enjoy the experience as much as she has in the past. Holladay hopes that the group will strengthen communication and continue to bond as a family, and Benton anticipates musical growth and more complicated pieces.





A Passion for Dance

by Bennet Sumner Photos: Andrew Childers Spread. Austin Richardson

With the release of hit movies like 'Step Up' and 'Take the Lead,' and the return of top-rated television shows like 'Dancing with the Stars,' dance became a visible part of America's culture this past year. Audiences loved to watch dancers express themselves through motion and the Samford community was no exception.

The women of this year's dance ensemble were incredibly involved all over campus. Whether expressing their encouragement at football and basketball games, or performing on stage in their annual production and Step Sing, these dancers were a huge part of the Samford spirit.

This year's team was led by two senior captains, family studies major Danelle Harris and journalism and mass communications major Lauren Cantrell. The team was formed out of a competitive three-hour tryout session in April. Out of the 30 girls that tried out, only 12 made the team. The dancers were evaluated by judges from the Birmingham area and were ultimately chosen by the captains. "We require them to do two leaps, splits and to perform for one minute. But more importantly, we look for personality and character," said Harris.

The captains chose five freshmen, three sophomores, one junior and one senior to be a part of the fall 2006 and spring 2007 ensemble. "The mix of girls that we had this year was perfect," said sophomore family studies major Lindsay Stroud. "We all had different types of experience. Some of us had done ballet in a studio and others had danced on teams in high school, so we definitely found an incredible blend of styles and attitudes."

The girls' "styles and attitudes" were show-cased at their annual show in November. The 2006 performance was called 'Shuffle Play,' which emphasized the unique mixture of music and dance enjoyed by the team. "This year's show was extremely personal to each of us," Harris said.

The show was divided into two acts, both of which featured seven pieces. Each song was choreographed by a member of the ensemble and performed by the choreographer and other dancers of her choice. "I loved doing this performance because I was able to choose a piece that moved me," said

Stroud. "We all had so much fun watching each other choreograph and putting our hearts into every piece."

While the dancers were having fun on stage, more than 400 people enjoyed 'Shuffle Play' from the audience. Sophomore Spanish major Casey Cooper expressed what she liked about the show from the audience's point-of-view. "I was really impressed by how professional they seemed. I loved the costumes and music because I felt like you could see their personalities come out on stage."

The show however was only one of the ways that the team got to showcase their talent this year. The dance ensemble performed before and during almost every football and basketball game this year. "We love to work with athletics because they're the ones who gave us our start from the beginning. It's exciting to get to dance at games and build spirit," Cantrell said.

Last year, the dancers were able to do pre-game shows for the games, and this year, they also performed during two half-time shows. "Getting to perform during half-time this year was a great step, and next year, I hope that we will be able to do every half-time show," Cantrell said.

After the football and basketball seasons were over, the dance ensemble finished the year by performing at the kick off for Step Sing and as the opening act. "Performing at Step Sing is one of my favorite things that I get to do with the dance team," said Stroud. "The atmosphere is always so exciting, and I love to get to showcase our talent in front of such a big crowd."

The dance ensemble has done a variety of songs during Step Sings in the past including Let Go by Froo Froo and U2's Vertigo. This year, however, the captains wanted to do something different. "We try to change it up from year to year. This year, we wanted to bring it back down to something a little funkier and slower," said Cantrell.

The dance ensemble showed their versatility this year through their show 'Shuffle Play,' their involvement with athletics and their performances through Step Sing. Whether shuffling across a stage in tap shoes or doing toe touches on a sideline, the dance team has become an increasingly important and visible part of Samford. Cantrell said, "We got a lot of exposure this year, but it's only a small step in the direction that we want to take the dance team's future."

Shall we sing?

by Melissa Poole Photos: Nick Holdbrooks Spread: Austin Richardson

This was a question the A Cappella choir asked themselves numerous times over the course of the year. This group of Samford students excelled in all things musical over the course of the 2006-2007 academic year by performing all over the country for all types of audiences. The A Cappella choir did not just dazzle the likes of Samford folk but reached far beyond the front gates all the way to Washington D.C.

Samford's A Cappella choir was an auditioned group of both music and non-music majors. The members of A Cappella choir were well known students around campus who were involved in numerous activities on campus. Members of the A Cappella choir were committed to engaging whatever audience they were serving in worship. These students used their voices as their mission. "The purpose of A Cappella choir is to spread the good news of Christ through our music in Birmingham and in the cities to which we get to travel," said Caitlin Huie, a junior choir member.

The leadership of A Cappella choir is elected by its members. Sarah Simmons, Sarah Spires, Leann Mulligan, Matt Andrews, Lori Clayton and Robert Pendergraft served as the leaders of the 2006-2007 choir. These leaders worked hard to run the business of the choir as well as serve as leaders and representatives for the choir.

As a non-competitive group at Samford, the A Cappella choir did not attend any musical competitions; instead, the group focused on performing at on-campus events, local Birmingham programs and even a weeklong trip with many stops on the way. The 2006-2007 A Cappella choir performed on campus during convo, recitals, evensong, old song sing and the Christmas festival. One of the greatest honors for the

choir this year was participating in the President's inauguration. The choir was one of the first impressions Dr. Westmoreland had of Samford. They couldn't wait to perform for him at the inauguration.

The choir performs most of their concerts during the fall semester since they spend the spring semester preparing for their tour. During the 2007 spring break, the choir toured many different states performing at many different venues on their way to Washington D.C. The group started out in Gadsden, Alabama, working their way up the east coast. The group stopped in Ashville, NC, Danville, VA, Richmond, VA, and Spartanburg, SC, to name a few. When the group finally made it to Washington D.C., they performed at the Kennedy Center for a packed audience that included Dr. Westmoreland as well as national legislators. During their stop in Atlanta, the choir performed at Spivey Hall. At the end of the tour, the choir performed a home concert at Samford for their families and friends. "Our home concert is always very special to us because of the large number of alumni who come to offer their support and get to come on stage and participate in the singing of the traditional final piece," said Huie.

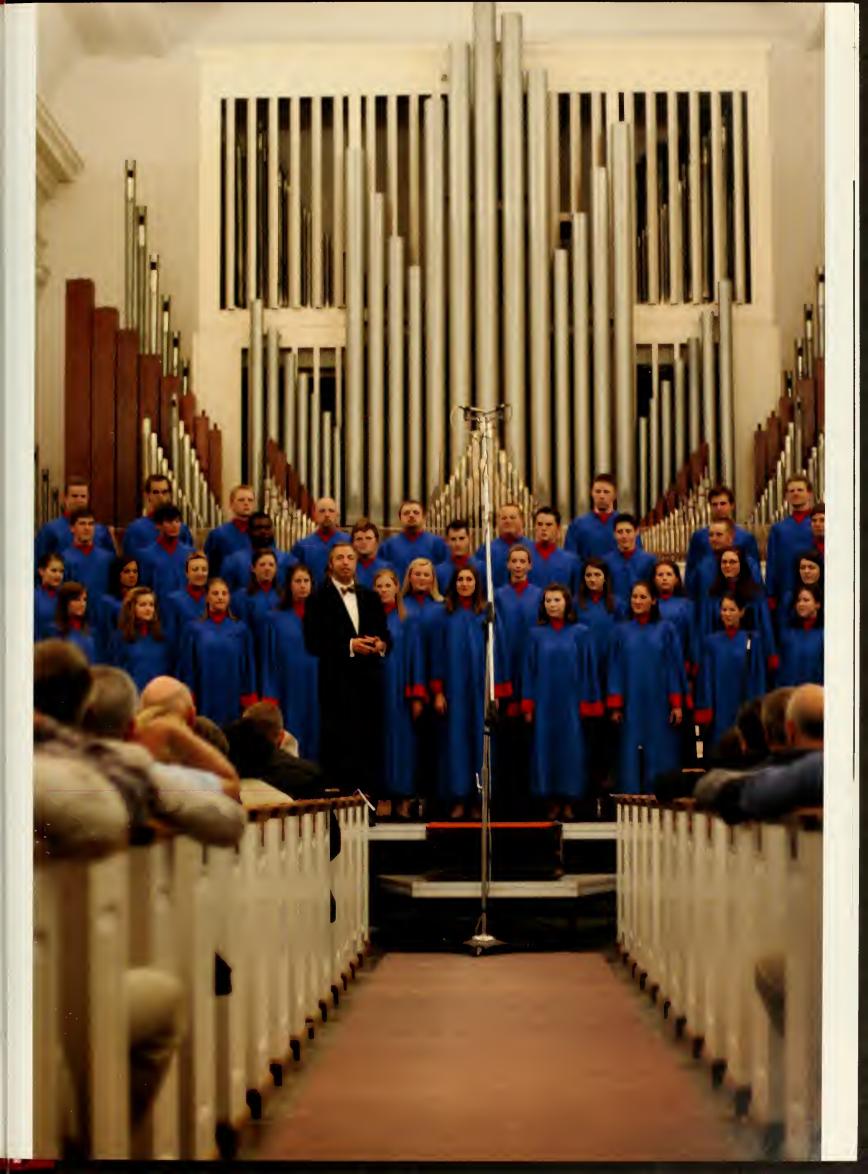
The choir also spent much of their time this year preparing for their trip to London, England. The choir worked hard in the spring to be honored as the choir in residence at the Southwark Cathedral. The trip also included many performances in surrounding locations.

The choir had many impressive performances throughout the year. They saw every performance as a chance to sing for the Lord. Their final performance of the year took place when the choir had the honor of singing at baccalaureate.



Dr. Banks proudly introducing the A Capella Choir (Left)

The A Capella Choir performing in Reid Chapel for a full Audience. (Right Page)



The Vital Connection

by Emily Sparks
Photos: Bob Miller
Spread: Austin Richardson

From homecoming, to Miss Samford, to Welcome Back, the Student Government Association is the heart of student life on campus. SGA ranges from the unrecognized work-behind-the-scenes, to center-stage involvement at various University events. It is comprised of numerous sub-organizations that work diligently to ensure that campus life is the best that it can be.

The Student Executive Board is composed of 8 students who are elected and appointed in the spring: President Taylor Clement, Vice President of Senate Jason Pointer, Vice President for Activities Blake Eckert, Treasurer Ryan McIntire, Chief Justice Mary Kathryn Covert, Chief of Staff Daniel Crane, Executive Assistant Katie Bondurant and Student Activities Council Administrator Lauren Herb. Together, these officers coordinate all activities and legislation while serving as the chairs of the four SGA branches: Scnate, Executive Advisory Board, Student Activities Council and Student Judiciary Council.

The Senate works to pass bills making improvements around Samford and appropriating funds to other organizations in support of their events. They have supported Greek Weckend and helped bring Beth Twitty as a guest speaker to Samford, as well as many other events produced by various organizations with financial funding.

They have recently begun investigating the possibility of establishing an honor code on campus.

The Executive Advisory Board has also been working on the idea of a new honor code that will hold students accountable for their actions in and out of the classroom. A new edition to EAB is the Religious Life Community which works with University Ministries and Matt Kerlin to improve University Convocation and bring new ideas for additional convocation events.

Behind the scenes of the many social functions throughout the year, the Student Activities Council has worked hard to pull off another wonderful year of Welcome Back, Family Weekend and Homecoming. "SAC had a wonderful homecoming specifically with the opening of the new Harry's," said Taylor Clement, SGA President. Other successes included the Miss Samford pageant on November 10 and Lighting of the Way on November 28.

Finally, the Student Judiciary Council is responsible for all violations of the SGA Constitution and Code of Laws. They have been working with the new values advocate, Gary Atkins, to re-evaluate the current values violations system and looking for ways to make improvements.





Serving on SGA is no easy job by any standard. It requires many hours of work, commitment and dedication, but gracefully, they have pulled everything together, making it look as though it all comes naturally.

SGA is responsible for representing the student body to the faculty, staff, administration and Board of Trustees. They are constantly working to improve the quality of student life here at Samford. "SGA is a vital connection between students and the administration," said Katie Bondurant, Executive Assistant. "It works to serve both student needs and administrative needs to help make Samford the best that it can be." Campus would not be the same without the festivities of Welcome Back, Homecoming, Miss Samford, Step Sing and everything in between that makes Samford the experience that it is.



Taking it to Court

by Melissa Poole Photo: Jupiter Images Spread. Austin Richardson

If you broke one of Samford's rather strenuous values codes, there is a group of students on campus that just might have been able to defend your case. The Samford mock trail team is comprised of students of all classifications who have just the trial experience you should have sought. These students led by co-captains, Alicia Smith and Lauren Wilson, participated in scrimmages and competitions that were conducted like actual legal trials.

Smith, a junior pre-law major at Samford, has been a member of the mock trial team since her freshman year. "The mock trial team offers students the chance to obtain invaluable experience in argumentation, debate and trial law. Since the competitions mimic actual legal trials, the organization is fantastic for developing a sense of courtroom presence for students interested in law school and a career in litigation," Smith said.

Mock trial students competed in scrimmages, invitational and regional competitions. Members of the team took on all the roles of a legal case and prepared ahead of time to compete with other schools. Students served as the attorneys, clients and witnesses. Samford students took bids to national competitions, as well as received awards for Best Attorney and Best Witness on numerous occasions.

Samford's mock trial team has been able to host competitions on campus as well. This is something they enjoyed not just for the home court advantage, but also because it allowed them to showcase Samford to other schools. "Scrimmages or regional sometimes occur on campus, offering students at other schools a chance to tour the campus and particularly the law school," Smith said.

Being a member of the mock trial team is a full time commitment. Members of the team prepared and practiced the same way a full time lawyer would. The only way people survived this team is if they were passionate and committed to the organization. "Being on the mock trial team is no easy feat, considering the total forfeiture of a personal life during the weeks before competition," Smith said.

Another taxing aspect associated with participation on the team relates to fundraising. Mock Trail did not receive much financial assistance from the university. Therefore, all their expenses for competitions had to be raised. There was never a guarantee the money would be there for supplies. Overcoming this obstacle proved all the more rewarding for the members of the team. "Even guaranteeing funding for trips and supplies is difficult! That's why I'm so immensely and particularly grateful for the dedicated, hard working group of students that has volunteered so much to make this team such a rewarding experience, especially for me," Smith said.

The 2006-2007 mock trial team was a proud group of individuals who worked hard to make Samford proud, as well as feel a sense of accomplishment in them. Whether they were arguing, practicing, competing or growing as an organization, the mock trial team always kept their goals in mind and fought for something. And in the future, if you're ever in need of an attorney, you know where to turn.

Alpha Lambda Delta: Acknowledging Academics

by Bennett Sumner Photo: Courtesy of Alpha Lambda Delta Spread: Austin Richardson

Entering freshmen are faced with the responsibility of learning how to balance life on their own, grades and other activities. With all of the new adventures and adjustments, many freshmen shift their focus from academics to the many opportunities that college has to offer. Alpha Lambda Delta is a freshman honors society that recognizes freshmen who, in spite of new distractions, seek academic excellence and maintain at least a 3.5 GPA.

The honors society encourages students through recognition at an annual banquet and an invitation to join the group.

"This year, we sent out no more than 250 invitations and we initiated 157 students, which was one of our biggest initiating classes," 2006 to 2007 president of ALD and sophomore biology major Lee Ross said. "ALD is truly an honor because it's one of the most unique organizations on campus in that it exists strictly to recognize freshmen."

However, ALD does not only recognize its members, but it also provides opportunities for campus and community involvement.

"What some people don't realize is that ALD is a service oriented fraternity," secretary of ALD and sophomore Spanish major Casey Cooper said. "We do on-campus projects like clean up days, and we do community projects like helping with the Old Howard 100."

ALD also allows for its members to be recognized and earn scholarships nationally. This year, representatives from more than 350 chapters nation wide entered into an ALD scholarship competition. Out of the 30 applicants chosen, Samford senior John Andrew Wesley, a music major, was selected as a scholarship winner for his outstanding academic achievement and involvement in ALD.

"Having our chapter representative win the scholarship award was great because it got Samford's name on the map in the national organization,"

Ross said

The executive officers of this year's ALD used their time to try to begin rebuilding the foundation of the organization and to create new ideas for the future

"We had a lot of goals for the year," Ross said, "but because there were some changes happening [within the Samford chapter] we dropped the ball on a few things."

The major change that Ross referred to was the induction of a new ALD advisor. Professor of geography Gregory Jeane served as the ALD advisor for eight years until he decided to resign this spring and turn over the position to professor of communication arts Charolette Brammer.

"The organization is going to be in good hands under the direction of the new Faculty Advisor," Jeane said. "She has a heart, as I do, for these young men and women who become members of ALD."

ALD held their annual induction ceremony at The Club on Thursday, April 5. The program opened with the induction of Brammer as an honorable member followed by the induction of the new members. New ALD officers were formally appointed, and the ALD advisor position was officially handed over.

"I look forward to working with this exceptionally bright and highly motivated group of young students," Brammer said. "I see my role as advising students toward establishing measurable and achievable goals rather than imposing any goals that I may have."

The new ALD officers for fall 2007 and spring 2008 are: President Ellen Corman, Vice President Ashley Oliver, Treasurer Katie Snider, Secretary Grace Moon, Editor/ Webmaster Jonathan Newman, Junior Advisor Lee Ross and Senior Advisor Meredith Henry. These students have agreed to take on the responsibility of building upon a strong foundation laid by this year's

ALD's officers

"Alpha Lambda Delta is about its student members. They are the ones responsible for our considerable recognition outside this campus," Jeane said. "The participation of our student leaders in ALD's annual National Leadership Workshop, the continued growth of our chapter membership, our participation in campus activities, and our periodic success in getting national recognition when one of our own is successful in national competition for scholarships are moments of great pride for us as advisors."





Omicron Delta Kappa

by Maegan Wilson Photos: Courtesy of Omicron Delta Kappa Spread: Austin Richardson

Founded on December 3, 1914 at Washington and Lee University by 15 student and faculty leaders, Omicron Delta Kappa was the first college honor society on a national scale for college students, faculty, staff, administrators and alumni. The society recognizes and encourages exemplary character and superior scholarship, leadership and service in extracurricular activities, and this remains its purpose on Samford's campus.

Omicron Delta Kappa was different from other honor societies on campus because they did not have a budget for events such as dinners or parties. The society's main efforts were endeavors for social justice. "We want to use our collective voice to help those, as in Perry County, who would like to be helped and to empower those people at Samford to make the changes they would like to see," said senior history major and Omicron Delta Kappa President Mary Kathryn Covert. The society also serves another purpose in her life. She found other campus leaders similar to herself that she could connect with on another level.

The Omicron Delta Kappa circle was small with rigorous requirements to purposefully maintain prestige. The national organization required that each member be in the upper 35% of his or her class and have a special distinction in at least one of five areas including scholarship, athletics, campus or community service including social and religious activities and campus government, journalism, speech, mass media and creative and performing arts. However, Samford required that a member be in the upper 35% of his or her class and exercise leadership in two of the five areas.

The organization had ambitious goals and numerous activities during the school year. At the beginning of the fall and spring semesters, the organization nominated, selected and initiated new members. In the fall Congressman Arthur Davis, representative of the five poorest counties in America spoke at the Omicron Delta

Kappa induction convocation. The society also held a High School Leadership Initiative in the fall that was funded by SGA. They went to Perry County and trained students of the Future Business Leaders of America at Francis Marion High School. The trained students were brought to campus in the spring to shadow current members for a day. Members were also flag bearers in Dr. Westmoreland's inauguration ceremony. In the spring, they held a Perry County Fun Fest with Student Ministries. The day for children and their families included food, inflatable games and deliberate conversations with citizens of Perry County. In addition, they elected and installed new officers in the spring. Omicron Delta Kappa also tried some new activities like nominating an Omicron Delta Kappa man and woman of the year and hosting a campus wide faculty-student mixer.

After 93 years, the Samford chapter of Omicron Delta Kappa still lives up to its high ideals, expectations and dedicated service. "Membership in Omicron Delta Kappa is a mark of the highest distinction and honor," said Covert. "On the university level, it is considered *the* national collegiate honor society exclusively for leadership."





The Faces of Samford

by Shelby Crowe
Photo and Spread Austin Richardson

Next year, Samford University is expected to welcome the second largest, or quite possibly the largest, incoming freshman class to campus in the university's history. Out of these 700 odd students admitted each year, it is not surprising to meet valedictorians, merit scholars and students with lists and lists of achievements. But as a fellow Samford student, have you ever asked how our university is able to attract these numbers of high caliber students?

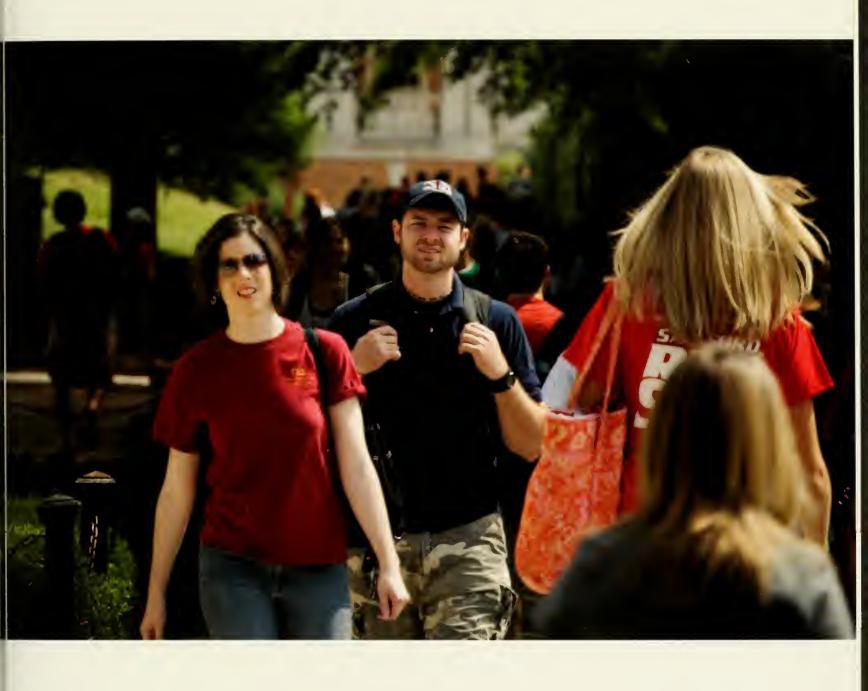
Meet the organizations that helped to get these students through our front gates: Student Recruitment Team and Samford Ambassadors.

Like the name suggests, the Samford Student Recruitment Team worked in close collaboration with the office of admissions to "recruit" prospective students. This group of students is maybe most remembered for their involvement at preview days. Here, SRT members answered almost all types of questions for students and parents pertaining to the university; they also gave tours of the campus. This was not all they were responsible for, however. Along with three fall preview days, SRT was also responsible for helping with Scholar's Day and Academic Options Day. SRT members "came into contact with over 500 potential students in the fall," explained Jason Black, the university's coordinator of campus visits and the administrator in charge of SRT. SRT members were imperative because most prospective students received their first impression of Samford from this group. "This probably goes

without saying," comments Black, "but if their impression was good, these new students probably had a positive impact on Samford." Thus, this group of highly selective students is needed to continue and uphold the Samford legacy.

As SRT worked with the office of admission, Samford Ambassadors worked closely with the President of the University, Dr. Westmoreland. Like SRT, ambassadors acted as representatives of the student body, but instead of providing a student's perspective to prospective students, ambassadors provided alumni and distinguished guests with this perspective. Essentially, ambassadors attended "any event that Dr. Westmoreland wants ambassadors to attend." stated junior ambassador Cam Rogers. Dr. Westmoreland trusted this elite group to escort and talk to the campus's most important visitors. Rogers specifically remembered the importance of the group at last year's candle light dinner that took place on the Wright Center stage during homecoming for a distinguished group of alumni. "It gave them the opportunity to ask students firsthand about the progress of the university and its endeavors," he explains.

These two groups often remained behind the scenes, but their hard work is visible on our campus. These students were responsible for representing your university, and the university depended on them to provide outsiders with a lasting impression of Samford.



Reaching Out

by Shelby Crowe
Photo: Becky Ellenberger
Spread: Austin Richardson

Student Ministries may have changed their name in the past year, but their impact on campus only continued to grow.

Student Ministries consolidated into Samford University Ministries hoping to provide a home away from home for new students and faculty members in unfamiliar territory. April Robinson, Minister to Students, Campus and Community Involvement, believed that it would be a blessing at Samford to have this type of organization that is specifically "designed to encourage and equip students and faculty in their spiritual journey." In the past year, University Ministries provided numerous opportunities for students and faculty to achieve that goal.

Whether you decided to cultivate your spiritual life within the gates of Samford, decided to go out into the Birmingham community or ventured to anywhere in the world for that matter, University Ministries helped. "Last year, University Ministries provided over \$20,000 in scholarships distributed to 68 students who went to 42 different countries. Those students returned to campus with a different worldview, and wove their experiences into the tapestry of life at Samford," explained Robinson.

Senior Samford student and University Ministries officer Amanda Spikes chose to minister closer to home with the help of UM last year. After Thanksgiving, Spikes and other UM members introduced a food salvage program in collaboration with the caf. "Initially we had a 'weigh-in' of how much food we as students actually waste. After Thanksgiving, Chef Vizzina donated food that fed almost 400 people at God Faith Cathedral," said Spikes. Although this food salvage program is not yet an established program at Samford, Spikes and others are hopeful for new programs such as this taking root in the future. Students who signed petitions in the caf or participated like Spikes in the program were happy with the great response. "We made our campus aware of waste and how we as a university can reach out, giving and serving in our Birmingham community," said Spikes.

Although University Ministries is comprised of a number of student leaders such as Spikes, you do not have to create a new program on campus or even be an active participant in University Ministries to become involved and make a difference. Just two years ago, 180 Samford students loaded buses for south Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana to help after Hurricane Katrina. "It was so uplifting to see the amount of Samford students who didn't hesitate to sacrifice their fall break to help these people," senior Samford student Amy Saxon said.

With University Ministries providing opportunities such as these, Samford students often forget the more familiar things they are responsible for that we as students sometimes take for granted. University Ministries organized Convocation, cadres, Bible studies and worship services such as Shiloh.

Whatever the opportunity, you always found University Ministries looking for new ways for Samford students to reach out. "UM impacts Samford by directly impacting Samford students and faculty," says Robinson. Whether providing a family with a new home through Habitat for Humanity or simply giving out Bibles at the local Juvenile Detention Center, UM wanted to be there. With the help of student leadership and under the direction of the new University Minister, Matt Kerlin, UM hopes to do just that.

University Ministries has encountered new additions and changes over the past year, but along with these changes they hoped to encounter more and new opportunities for ministry. "It's a story worth telling! Students are making an impact on the world, and University Ministries is delighted to be a part of that good work," said Robinson. Indeed, as the list of good deeds and work attributed to Samford University Ministries continues to grow, this organization will continue to look for ways to live this story.



Constructing Faith

by Emily Sparks
Photos: Leah Shell
Spread: Austin Richardson

Over the past 15 years, Samford has been involved with Habitat for Humanity. This fall, Samford was given the opportunity to sponsor a house of its own. Students from all areas of campus came together to volunteer for the project, hoping to make an impact on the local Birmingham community. Samford students Lauren Ford and Leah Shell volunteered to become co-coordinators for the Samford Habitat chapter.

Undertaking the responsibility of recruiting enough student volunteers to complete the construction of a house from ground-breaking to finish was understandably intimidating. However, Ford and Shell were excited to see over 300 students sign up for the Habitat email list. "It is so essential for students to get out of the Samford gates and take a look at the dire needs in the community around us. Service is a calling – one that all of us have," said Ford. "We have to be willing to give of ourselves."

The students began work in October and continued every Friday and Saturday through December 9 to help build Ms. Earline Smith's first home. "Sponsoring a house is a great way to be involved because it offers a chance for the students to really be engaged in the whole construction process," said Shell. "It also encourages faithfulness and dedication and it's wonderful to see the end product."

Smith began working through the process to receive a home nearly a year ago. Meeting the requirements set forth by Habitat, Smith and her daughter Lena, were no strangers on the construction site. Although Smith's age and health conditions did not allow her to perform hands-on work, she gave a special thank you to the volunteers on ground-breaking day. The volunteers were able to give Smith more than just a new home. On the day of the house dedication, the volunteers presented her with a photojournal containing notes from every volunteer and pictures showing the construction progress. "It was so rewarding to see how excited Ms. Smith was about the house and the photojournal," said Ford. "She was so thankful for everything."

The volunteers and supporters from organizations all over campus helped to pull together the Habitat project with such success that it has sparked additional projects. Every year, Habitat coordinates a special "Home for the Holidays" project, of which Samford also had the opportunity to be a sponsor. The Samford Habitat chapter worked to help Habitat build a house from start to finish in one week. Habitat was also chosen as the service project for President Andrew Westmoreland's inaugural week, in which faculty and students showed tremendous support for the Westmoreland's welcome to the Samford campus.

In the upcoming year, Shell and Ford are looking into ways to bring more cohesion to the Samford Habitat chapter. By making it more organizational, they hope to incorporate membership, regular meetings, additional fundraising and possible future partnerships. Currently, the chapter is able to sponsor a house once every year or year-and-half through faculty donations and other small fundraisers. Shell and Ford hope to bring in additional financial support by selling t-shirts and working with concessions at sports events on campus. Another idea in the making is a 2008 spring break trip through national and international Habitat for Humanity. Ford and Shell are excited about the opportunities and possibilities that have surfaced for the upcoming school year. They recognize the importance of a comprehensive service organization on campus

as an outlet for students to be involved outside of the Samford community. "As students in Birmingham, we are responsible for helping to alleviate the substandard housing in the area," Shell said. "Habitat provides a way for us to serve, not just through spirit, but with actions."





Gamma Sigma Sigma : Through Service and Love

by Melissa Poole Photos: Becky Ellenberger Spread. Austin Richardson

Many organizations on Samford's campus sought to serve the campus, community and world this year at some point. One organization, however, made it their ongoing mission through constant philanthropic activity to change "the world." The sisters of Gamma Sigma Sigma were like any other sorority; they all had a common goal and bond which was to serve.

"The purpose of Gamma Sigma Sigma is to provide an opportunity to bring together a group of girls across campus that has a similar desire: to help others. By this connection, we are able to reach out not only to our community, but to other nations as well," said Claire Kimberly, a senior Communication Studies major at Samford. This goal is achieved by recruiting eager young ladies of all ages at Samford.

The sisters of Gamma Sigma Sigma hosted and participated in numerous activities and events throughout the year to raise money for different organizations. In September, Gamma Sigma Sigma kicked of the academic year by writing letters to soldiers stationed in Iraq. In October, the sisters promoted trick-or-treating for canned goods to support United Way. The November event found the sisters testing their carpentry skills as well as their abilities to put pieces together as they assisted in the building of a Birmingham Habitat for Humanity home. The sisters also aided in bringing in the holiday season by making ornaments for the local hospice organization. They continued their hospice relationship in December when they baked cookies for the individuals under hospice care. The Holiday season also found the sisters hosting a Christmas party for needy children at the Trussville library. During the spring semester the sisters participated in the Howard Showcase.

Gamma Sigma Sigma fulfilled their objective of service, but also planned activities to build the social relationships among its sisters. During the fall semester, the sisters attended a GSS retreat in Memphis, TN. They also hosted a pledge bash to honor their new members. During October, the sisters hosted alumni, family and friends of GSS at a picnic. The spring semester found the sisters retreating to Panama City as well as having a spring formal. "Our activities are designed to bring our sisters closer together. Our passion is service; however, we occasionally like to let loose," said Kimberly. "These activities are our sign of love for each other."

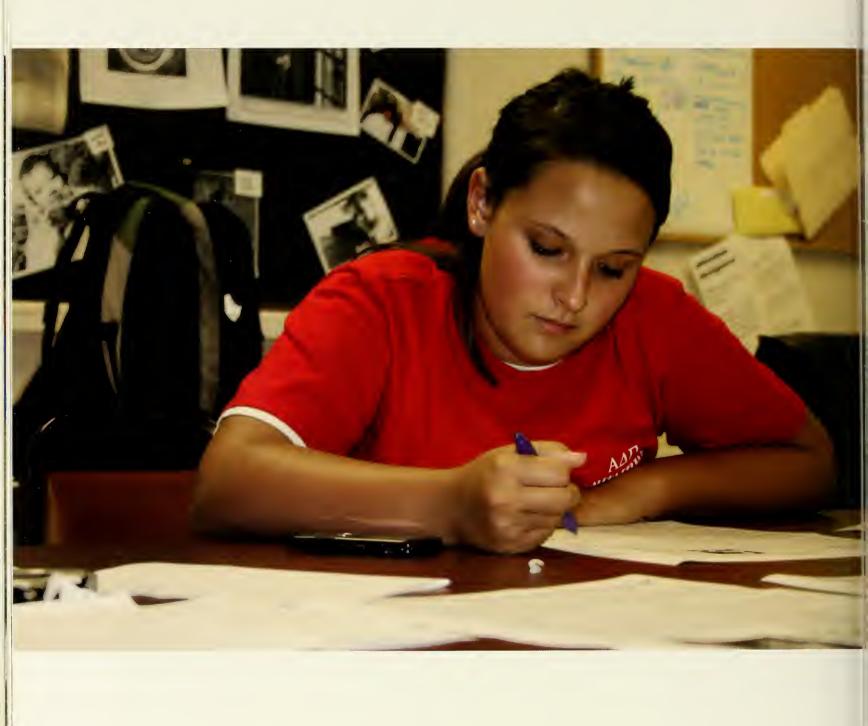
The sisters of Gamma Sigma Sigma did not seek praise for their actions. They participated in philanthropic activities for the self-satisfaction the organization brought. Their hard work, however, did not go unnoticed. During the 2006-2007 academic year, the Samford University chapter of Gamma Sigma Sigma received the National Award for Contribution to the Red Cross and United Way.

Kimberly received the organization's honored Gamma Sigma Sigma woman of the year award. "This is truly an honor," said Kimberly. "I am blessed to be a part of this group of girls and privileged to be working alongside them for the betterment of our community." The organization also honored other members through private recognitions this year.

Gamma Sigma Sigma's goal was to touch as many people as possible. The young ladies who invested their time and energy into this organization might never know just how many lives were affected by their efforts. These young ladies represented themselves, their organization and Samford honorably.







Crimson

by Melissa Poole Photo: Becky Ellenberger Spread: Austin Richardson

Whether it was finding the inside scoop about the Samford administration, reporting on extremist groups visiting campus or putting the paper to bed, the 2006-2007 Samford Crimson staff worked to bring the news to students in such a way that everyone knew what was happening on campus. This academic year proved to be one for the archives in the life of the student paper.

New issues of the Samford Crimson could be found on campus newsstands every Wednesday morning with the promise of an exciting headline featuring the latest in Samford news. The beginning of the year brought headlines about the new President, continued construction and new convocation plans. Editor-in-Chief Lauren Welty ensured each and every issue expressed the concerns important to students. "The Crimson prides itself on giving students an inside look into every aspect of the Samford community," Welty said. "We are an award-winning publication with award-winning journalists. Our goal is to get the news to the students."

The *Crimson* proved its bias and loyalty to the entire student body during the month of September. Many controversial articles appeared in conjunction with Greek recruitment. The *Crimson* remained bias printing articles from both sides of the argument. "The *Crimson* represents all opinions and views of the student body," Welty said. "*Crimson* staffer's only loyalty is to the integrity of the paper." This was an issue tested throughout the Greek recruitment drama.

The *Crimson* found itself under scrutiny again during the spring semester when Soul-Force visited campus. The liberal homosexual organization came to Samford's campus with the intention of observing Samford's attitude toward the students. The *Crimson* chose to chart its own course and report on the story from different angles. The staff did not merely report on the information provided by the Samford administration. Instead, Welty and other reporters contacted SoulForce themselves to gain a second side of the story.

The Samford Crimson was well represented at the annual Southeastern Journalism Conference in January. Several Crimson staffers took home journalistic awards in areas such as feature writing, copy editing and layout. The highest honor went to the 2005-2006 Editor-in-Chief Megan Voelkel who received the award for college journalist of the year.

The *Crimson* is an emblem that many see as the face of Samford. In 2007, this face joined the new media age. The *Samford Crimson* moved its publication online to www.samfordcrimson.edu. The online publication was a modified version of the printed publication aimed at students studying abroad and Samford parents.

The 2006-2007 year proved to be a busy one for the *Samford Crimson*. Welty and other staffers worked hard to meet the increasing demands, and this year's staff promises to pass along their legacy and work ethic. The future looks bright for this student publication.

The Samford Blue

by Melissa Poole
Photos. Courtesy of ROTC
Spread: Austin Richardson

Samford had their own connection with men and women serving our country to protect our freedom. The 2006-2007 Samford AFROTC (Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps) encompassed a group of devoted members who received training that qualified them for service in the Air Force upon graduation. Along with Montevallo, Birmingham-Southern, Jeffer son State, Miles and UAB, the AFROTC worked as an active military officer training organization in which its members are trained to join with the understanding they would serve career military terms upon graduation. They are also placed on active duty upon graduation. Some would even take time to serve while still students.

Detachment 012, located on the Samford's campus, served all of these institutions. The Detachment under the command of NCO's, or Non-Commissioned Officers, was responsible for the training and military education of the members of AFROTC. This group, led by Lt. Col. Gregory S. Stanley, engaged students in physical training as well as military leadership classes. Cadets were required to meet rigorous training expectations in addition to their undergraduate curriculum.

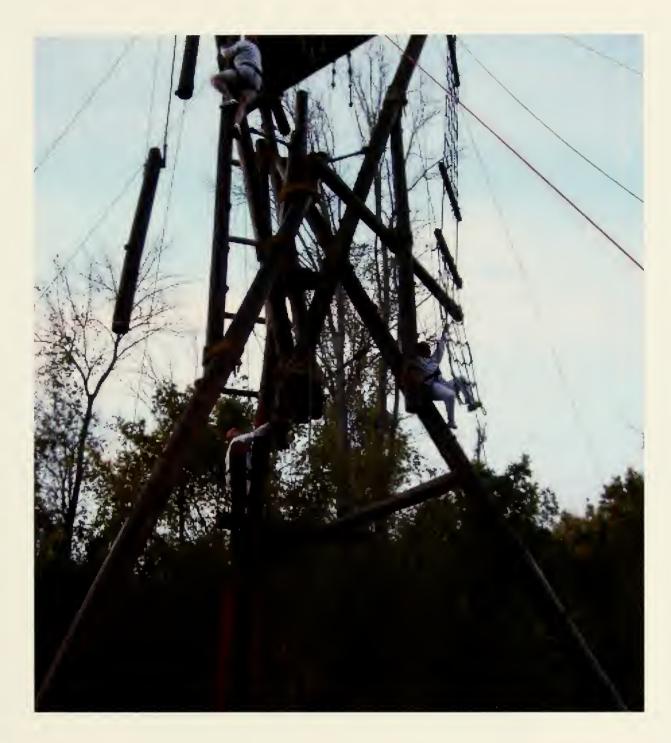
These officers also taught cadets to adhere to and live in accordance with the Air Force core values and strive to achieve the AFROTC mission statement.

"AFROTC has been one of the biggest blessings in my life. I know that when I look back on this choice I will be forever grateful for the values of leadership, discipline, integrity, service and so much more that it instilled in me daily," said senior Cara Pruitt.

Detachment 012 did not solely focus on training. The group held regular activities that built friendship and morale among the cadets. Two major events that happen annually consist of a "Dinning In" dinner in the fall and a "Dinning Out" dinner in the spring. These two events were very special to the cadets because they were events designed to both honor the cadets for their work, as well as provide an opportunity for cadets to reflect on all they accomplished throughout the semester. This was achieved with awards given at the event and an end of the semester video that was shown. These dinners were formal occasions and cadets proudly wore their service military dress. This year, the "Dinning In" dinner was catered at their detachment. "Dinning Out" was held at The Club in Birmingham.

The Detachment also held events such as pizza parties and movie nights designed to serve as casual bonding experi-





ences for the cadets. The cadets also participated in a fundraiser this past year to raise money for their organization. They held a car wash and worked at Talladega as well.

The AFROTC at Samford was proud to display the many honors and awards their cadets received this past year. The entire cadre received honors and awards as well as honors of individual cadets. Cadets Leonard, Sims, Pruitt and Jacobson received distinguishes in field training. Cadets Dennis, Graber and Dutton were named superior performers, and Cadet Dennis was named an Ironman.

AFROTC was prideful of their membership and were constantly recruiting members. They proudly displayed their membership when wearing their dress uniforms to class. Members of AFROTC upon graduation were gifted in both their academic careers as well as eager and ready to apply these skills in their military career.

"I am proud to say that I am a member of AFROTC Detachment 012, Samford University, and will be a future 2nd Lt. in the USAF in August of 2007," said Pruitt. The members of this organization are giving the greatest gift an American can give by serving their country. "I have been privileged to serve my country, and what greater honor is there," said Pruitt.

Fishers of Women

by Maegan Wilson Photo: JupiterImages Spread: Austin Richardson

Global Women is an international organization whose goal is to spread the love of Christ to women around the world.

Samford's chapter of Global Women has joined with the organization for the past three years to promote the education of women's issues. "Many of the women in the international organization are missionaries, and they focus on issues such as maternal health and sex trafficking," sophomore psychology major and Global Women President Sally Campbell said.

The group met bimonthly to pray and discuss current women's issues. The members also participated in a one-night global village simulation at the Servants In Faith and Technology campus, which educates groups and individuals about mission work and facilitates mission trips. "It was a cool experience, and we want to make it an annual event," Campbell said.

A new leadership structure was also implemented this year. Global Coordinators were appointed to keep track of global issues while Community Coordinators kept the group updated on Birmingham concerns. In addition, another group of girls planned the retreat.

"Global Women is open to anyone," Campbell said. "Some people get upset about the issues that are brought up, but it's a good opportunity to figure out what's going on and to gain knowledge."



Culturally Aware

by Maegan Wilson
Photos: Courtesy of International Club
Spread: Austin Richardson

Going five years strong, the International Club is still uniting the Samford community with the international community. "It's a great place for students to get to know other cultures and become culturally aware," senior nursing major and club president Hannah Gordon said.

The members held monthly meetings to plan events and listen to guest speakers. The club also dined at various authentic ethnic restaurants once a month.

International Club's two biggest events took place during the spring semester. The club teamed with Birmingham's Black Heritage Association to host Soul Sessions. The event featured an open mike, soul food and international food in Harry's. Celebration of Cultures Week got the entire campus involved with speakers, international movies, ethnic food and music in the Caf and a drum circle.

The club also sold Sojourns' Fair Trade products and joined with Swing Kids to host a Salsa dance party.

International Club had changes during the year as well. The club rearranged the leadership to include a president, vice president and an activities committee. Members also appealed to the university for a budget to hold larger campus awareness events. Lastly, the club made efforts to join forces with the Black Heritage Association and got more missionary kids involved.

"More than anything," Gordon said, "the International Club provides a group to hang out with and eat different food with. You don't have to be an international student to be a member. You just have to have an interest in other cultures."



Delta Omicron

by Melissa Poole
Photo: Courtesy of Delta Omicron
Spread: Austin Richardson

What happened when a group of girls got together with two major components in common? Delta Omicron! Delta Omicron is the female music fraternity at Samford. This group of young ladies shared a passion for music and spending time together. Whether it was bonding at socials, attending events or promoting each member's talent, Delta Omicron was there in full force representing Samford. Delta Omicron sought to highlight and bring a greater appreciation for all types of performing arts. Each member held a special and specific talent and knowledge of fine arts.

Like any other sorority, Delta Omicron leadership was elected by its members. The goals of these leaders were to promote the organization and encourage a strong showing on Samford's campus. These girls succeeded in making Samford a more musical environment.

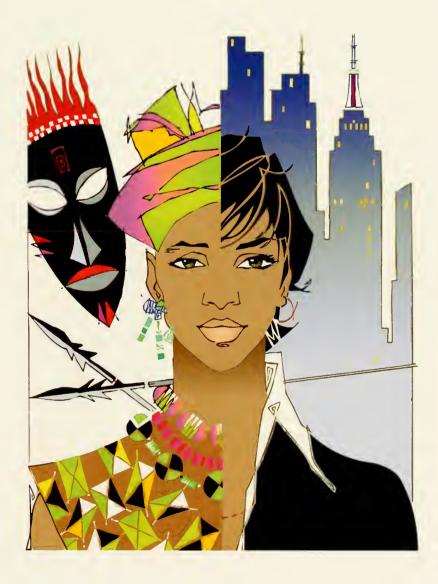


Black Heritage Association

by Melissa Poole Photo: Jupiter Images Spread: Austin RIchardson

"WHY?" This one little word carries so much weight and has an enormous amount of meaning. Why are we the way that we are? This question is one that the Black Heritage Association sought to answer. This passionate group of students developed an organization that was devoted entirely to honoring and learning about African American history and culture.

This group of students led by President Tyran Lewis, delved into the history of this race and culture to better educate the public while learning at the same time. This group took immense pride in what they discovered and realized this culture and heritage had a lot of pride as well. The goal of this organization was to display that pride through many activities and events throughout the year.



Swing Kids

by Caroline Bell Illustration and Spread: Austin Richardson

How much fun is dancing in the street... especially when you're good at it? That's exactly the point of Samford's Swing Kids Organization: have fun, dance and take it to the streets. Well maybe not the streets exactly; but the organization strives to bring the Samford community and even those outside Samford's walls together through the fun hobby of swing dancing.

The organization meets regularly and works on swing dance techniques. Moves are perfected and performed within the company of other swing enthusiasts; and the music of old timey crooners such as Frank Sinatra can be heard over the speakers as the swing crew laugh, enjoy and dance their way through an evening.

Swing Kids is just one of the many different kinds of organizations that Samford offers. So if you ever feel like taking on a new, fun and unique hobby, Swing Kids might just be the place for you. Besides, who can resist a little Frank Sinatra?



A Christian Huddle

by Bennett Sumner Photo: Courtesy of Fellowship of Christian Athletes Spread: Austin Richardson

Our culture is incredibly influenced by sports. This year alone, more than 93 million people watched the Super Bowl, elevating Colt's coach Tony Dungy and quarterback Peyton Manning to the position of all-time sports heroes. We are fascinated by athlete icons like Serena and Venus Williams and Tiger Woods, and we sit on the edge of our seats during the Olympics to watch Michael Phelps swim the 400 IM.

Each of these athletes has a profound impact on their fans, who not only study their sport but also their lives. In 1954, a man named Don McClanen recognized the publicity power of sports and used this as the foundation for a Christian ministry called Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

FCA's mission is, "to present to athletes and coaches and all whom they influence the challenge and adventure of receiving Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, serving Him in their relationships and in the fellowship of the church."

The ministry has grown to hundreds of thousands of members and is active in professional, college, high school and junior high sports. Each school or organization has its own club or 'huddle group.' The huddles are broken into team bible studies which encourage members to grow together in their study of scripture.

Samford's FCA is active in giving Christian athletes the opportunity to meet together weekly and share their experiences as student athletes.

"The meetings are on Tuesdays, and we share testimonies and prayer requests," head strengths coach Thomas Rohling said. "It's a great place for Christians to hold each other accountable and for non-Christians to be exposed to the faith."



College Democrats

by Melissa Poole Photo: Courtesy of College Democrats Spread: Austin Richardson

"The spot of blue in a sea of red." This slogan describes the Samford chapter of college democrats well. Even though they are a small group, the college Democrats had a goal to raise awareness and support for this strong political party. Through efforts to pass out information and educate undecided Samford students, the College Dems sought to engage and encourage young people to participate in the political world by becoming more aware of the issues.

This group of students did not focus so much on one particular candidate as much as they sought to focus on the values and beliefs of the Democratic Party as a whole. Volunteer work, information distribution and event attendance are just a few of the ways this organization promoted their efforts.



Rising Republicans

by Bennett Sumner Photo: Courtesy of College Republicans

Spread: Austin Richardson

Founded in 1892, College Republicans is the nation's oldest and largest political youth association. Serving as the grass roots arm of the Republican party, the organization works "to help elect Republicans, to support the President's agenda and to prepare future leaders of the Party," according to their national goals.

College Republicans serves to educate students about Republican ideals.

"We work to promote Republican ideas, but more than that, we want to help people become informed voters," sophomore business major and Secretary of State for College Republicans of Alabama Patrick Baggett said.

College Republicans are organized on the national, state and local levels, allowing students to get first hand experience in all levels of politics.

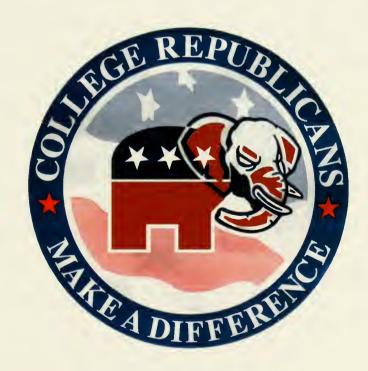
"This summer, I worked for my state senator," Baggett said. "I was able to help him with his strategy and communication."

This year at Samford, College Republicans brought in speakers, organized students to help with elections and gave out sweet tea to promote the Republican platform.

"We sent some people out to work on campaigns and go door to door," Baggett said. "Also, we invited the state treasurer to come and speak."

However, the club was not as involved on campus as they plan to be in the future.

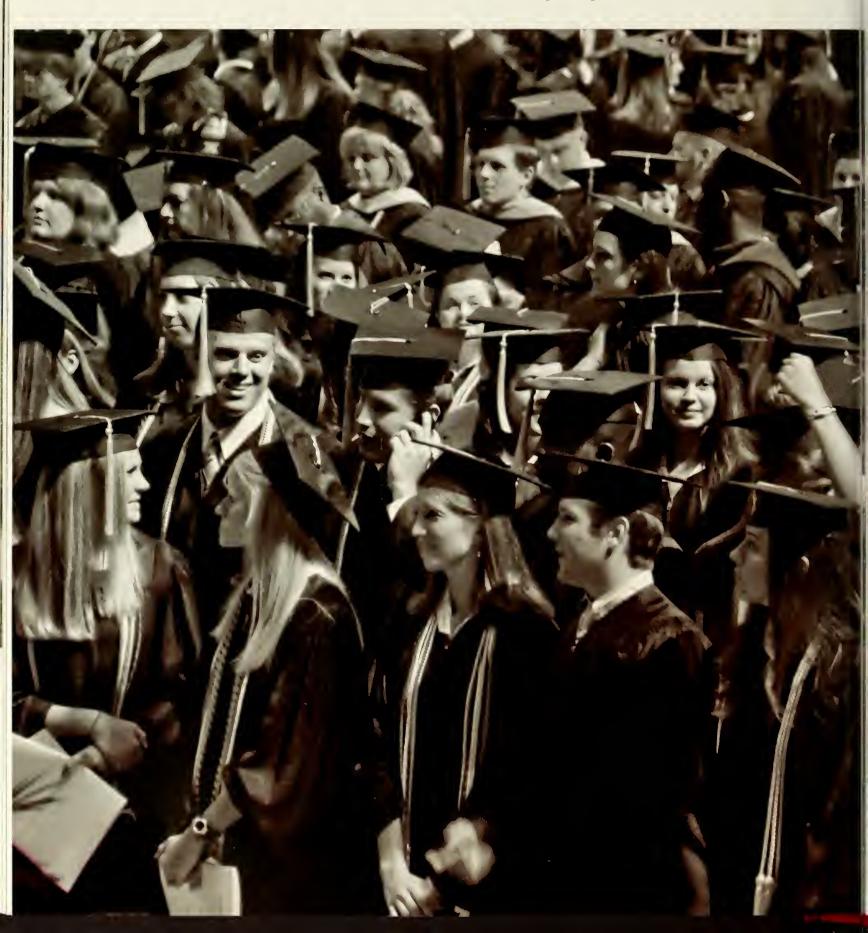
"We're going to get cracking in the fall, especially since it's an election year," Baggett said. "We're going to have more events to get our ideas out there. Students need to be informed and realize that their opinion counts."



Begin

To some, graduation feels like the end.

The end of long nights studying and the end of long nights with friends. But you're finally stepping out of the "Bubble" and into the "real world." What's exciting is that it's only the beginning.





Kristin Abernathy



Addie Ackerson



Erin Adamson



Alan Aiken



Malinda Alderete



Ellen Alderson



Julie Aldridge



Claude Alexander



John Allcorn



Lori Allen



Stephanie Allen



Michael Allison



Sheri Allison



Margaret Allred



Lisa Ambrose



Matthew Ams



Carol Anderson



James Anderson



Lakenya Anderson



Mary Anderson



Sheree Anderson



Michael Andrews



Crystal Arbo



Abigail Archer



Angela Armstrong



Hannah Atchley



William Atwell



Gwendolyn Austin



Gwendolyn Austin



Joel Aycock



David Bailey



Christie Baker



Hayes Baker



Jean Baker



John Baker



Ivan Balbasyan



Alyna Baler



Julia Banks



Leslie Ann Bankston



Amber Banta



Brittany Barker



Patrick Barker



Sarah Baughman



Lindsay Beal



Jason Beard



Marcease Beasley



Mallory Beaton



Floyd Thomas Beavers



Robert Becklean



Jeff Bennett



Brittany Bergquist



Maureen Bergrew



Jennifer Berryhill



Ashlee Best



Ashley Besteder



Seth Bias



Tamıka Bibb



Megan Bird



Donaye Blake



Katherine Blount



Emily Blythe



Sabrina Boglin



Jessica Bogucki



Katie Bondurant



Steven Bonham



Sam Booher



Bradley Boone



Shelley Boozer



Emily Bourke



Clark Bowers



Karen Boyd



James Mitchell Bradford



Pamela Branch



Joel Branscomb



Joel Branscomb



Taylor Brawner



Elizabeth Bray



Josh Brennard



Mary Elizabeth Briand



Timothy Brink



Emily Broesker



Wesley Brooks



Gregory Brown



Emily Brumbeloe



Lauren Bryant



James Bryce



Lainee Buchanan



Kerri Buck



Michaela Bundon



Cary Burdette



Cary Burdette



Justin Burkhead



Eric Burt



Autumn Busby



Kirsten Buszka



Gloria Butler



Jonathan Byrd



Terri Byrd



Joan Cade



Kımberly Caldwell



James Calhoun



Clinton Calvert



Cathy Cameron



Austin Campbell



Dwight Campbell



Miriam Campbell



Billy Cannon



Lauren Cantrell



Rachel Capps



Caitlin Capstickdale



Michael Caraccio



Braxton Carringan



Stephanie Carroll



Kathy Carter



Melanie Carter



Hayden Casey



Brooke Cassity



Ann Cavender



Matt Cearley



Chad Chaddick



Michael Chatman



Courtney Chavers



April Chesser



Stevanie Chestnut



Melanie Chism



Thiam Chua



Stephanie Clay



Cortney Clem



Mason Clement



Molly Cleveland



Laura Cobb



Henry Coker



AShley Colburn



Kıp Cole



Charles Collins



Brittany Conner



Karissa Cooley



Logan Cooner



Brandon Corbin



Lindsey Corlew



Ashley Corley



Sarah Correro



Jason Cosgrove



Rebecca Cotey



Mary Kathryn Covert



Amy Cowen



Brian Cox



Jonathan Cox



Ashley Crafton



Daniel Crane



Lıza Craven



Cassie Crawford



Shelby Crowe



Matthew Crum



Donald Cruse Jr.



Mike Cuenin



Latoya Cunningham



Michael Curtis



Shaun Curtis



Anna Cushman



Jeffrey Dance



Meridith Dandridge



Leslie Daniel



Rhonda Daniels



Jamie Daughtry



Tara Davidson



Virginia Davidson



Alicia Davis



Ashley Davis



Hunter Davis



Rannı Davis



Angela Day



Dawn Decastro



Grady Deel



Jennifer Deery



Rachel Dennard



Jared Devirgilis



Christopher Dewaal



Ann Dipetrillo



Traci Dobbins



Erastus Jones Doughton



Laura Dozier



Tanya Drummond



Natalie Durr



Julie Durrance



Jana Dykstra



Erin Eades



Blake Eckert



Robert Eddy



Rebecca Edwards



Katie Elliott



William Ellis



Stephanie Elmore



Daniel Emery



Scott Emery



Kenneth England



Emily Evans



Katherine Evans



Roderick Evans



Raven Everidge



Marcie Fairchild



Marla Falls



Alireza Farrokhroo



Jean Faulkner



Courtney Fenwick



Amanda Fielder



Ashley Finley



Abi Firestone



Melissa Fleming



Selena Florence



Kendall Flowe



French Forbes



Elizabeth Forehand



Brad Fowler



Michael Franklin



Aaron Frazier



Kımberly Frederick



Christen Freeman



Elizabeth French



Joy Friday



Stephanie Fulton



Sharon Gadie



Gretchen Gailey



Jonathan Gardner



Sarah Gardner



Mary Jo Garea



Candis Garner



Jessica Garner



Hilary Gary



Jacob Gates



Derek Gatlin



Sara Geiger



Amberly Gentry



Holly Gentry



Robert Gentry



Alyce George



Christian George



LaKeshya George



Rebecca George



John Park Gettys



Anne Gewin



Thomas Gibbs



Marsha Gilbreath



Jennifer Giles



Brittany Gilliland



Adam Glendye



Elizabeth Godfrey



Ralph Gold



Sherlyn Gold



Sarah Golden



Ginger Goodwin



Hannah Gordon



Starla Gordon



James Goss



Brittney Gould



April Graham



Jamie Gray



Jamie Greening



Lauren Greenwade



Lindsay Greer



Brittany Gregg



Kathy Gregory



Quinton Griffin



Erin Griffith



Tyler Grimes



Ashley Grimm



Nicholas Gross



Chris Gruber



Kaitlin Guertin



Andrew Guffin



Jennifer Guthrie



Elizabeth Hajek



Brian Hake



Lisa Halcomb



Erin Hall



Marquita Hall



Ryan Hamilton



Sarah Hampton



Laura Hancock



Mary-Blake Harbın



Jena Harman



Nicole Harmon



Charlene Harold



Scarlett Harrington



Alicia Harris



Bradley Harris



Danielle Harris



Stacy Harris



Tangela Harris



Teresa Harris



Ashley Harrison



Eric Harrison



Tyler Hartman



Stefani Hass



Samantha Hawkins



Kristen Hayden



Amanda Hayes



Lindsay Helmbock



Shea Helmbock



Cannan Helms



Laura Henderson



Kim Hendon



Lauren Herb



Lauren Herb



Ryan Heritage



Kathryn Hern



Warren Herring



Victoria Herriott



Ashleigh Hicks



Brian Hightower



Eric Hill



Megan Hodges



Amanda Holcombe



Nicholas Holdbrooks



Martha Holifield



Kimberly Holland



Lori Hollingsworth



Alison Holmes



Ashley Holmes



Kathryn Hoppe



Lauren Horner



Patricia Horrell



Misti Houck



Laura Houston



Barbara Jane Howard



April Howell



Kristofer Hudson



Mollie Ann Huff



Erica Hughes



Julie Hughes



Peter Hughes



Andrew Hull



Dawson Hull



Miki Hull



Heidi Hummel



Melanie Hunter



Aaron Hutchens



Elizabeth Hutcheson



William Hutchins



Hailey Hutchinson



Chelsee Insell



Richard Irons



Robin Ivy



Joshua Jacobs



leslie Jacobs



Kacie Janney



Mary Jenkins



Steven Jenkins



Sara Beth Jennings



Sara Beth Jennings



Autumn Jeter



Kandess Johnson



Kevin Johnson



Kimberly Johnson



Susan Johnson



Sandy Jolivette



AShley Jones



Jamie Jones



Jane Jones



Kenneth Kell



Kenneth Kell



Allison Kellerman



Thomas Kellogg



Megan Kemp



Steven Kennedy



Mary Keown



Rebecca Keown



Drew Killingsworth



Erın Killingsworth



Claire Kimberly



Matthew King



Misty King



Courtney Kirby



Amberleigh Kirk



Amanda Kirkland



Meredith Kirkley



Chitra Kirpalani



Katie Kistel



Gregory Kitchens



Larry Kloess



Carrie Knight



Christina Knox



Gretchen Kroeger



William Kubina



Kathryn Lamb



Nathan Lamb



John Lambuth



Benjamin Lancaster



Michell Lane



Mandy Langford



Katie Lantz



Angel Laurens



Tyran Laws



Amber Layton



Kelly Leavitt



Brook Lee



Jennifer Leech



Brooks Lehman



Megan Leland



Crystal Leslie



Angela Lewis



Abby Lindsey



Zachary Lindsey



Nathaniel Linsenbee



Trish Little



Jermaine Livingston



Abby Lockerby



Callaway Logan



Samuel Long



Laren Lott



Andrea Ludwig



Micheal Luna



Lindsay Macfarland



Marlene Mann



Chandler Mapes



Casey Marshall



Stephanie Marshall



Amy Martin



Julie Martin



Rebecca martin



Sophia Martorana



Laurel Matherly



Emily Mathis



Emily Mathis



Alexandria Matteau



Kimberly Matthews



Suzann Mattox



Suzann Mattox



Amanda May



Susannah Mayhall



Alan McBride



Christopher McCaghren



Ashley McCleery



Laura McComb



Tina McCombs



Ryan McCormick



Kyle McCoy



Caroline McCrary



Corey McCray



John McCreless



Grant McDaniel



Shannon McDaniel



Laurie McDonald



Chester McDonough



Jacob McInnis



Casey McIntosh



Ann Elizabeth McInvale



Martha McKay



Sarah McKey



William McKnight



Janise Medina



Mary Medley



Rachel Meeks



Jordan Meggs



Claire Melchiori



Mark Merges



Abbey Michael



Manuel Miletic



Preston Miller



Susan Miller



Whitney Miller



Daniel Mills



Matthew Mitchell



Britainy Mobley



Rebecca Mock



Zach Monroe



Amy Monsarrat



Elise Montgomery



Chadwick Montoya



Carrie Moore



Lance Moore



Robert Moore



Tabitha Moore



Darian Moorman



Carla Morgan



Bonnie Morris



Chelsey Morris



Paul Muchnick



Leann Mulligan



Adora Muntz



Leonel Muralles



Kathryn Murnane



April Nabors



Aubrey Naish



Amanda Narner



Brandon Neal



Jennifer Nelson



Jon Nelson



Kırbylee Nelson



Sarah Newman



Alexander Nguyen



Tugn Nguyen



Jennifer Nicholson



Lauren Nix



Nathaniel Normal



Katherine Norton



Brandon Nygaard



Lauren Oberman



Kimberly O'Conner



Luanne Odom



Jon Ogletree



Cecilia Ohman



Jeff Oils



Laura Onstott



Eric Opatich



Scott Orr



Brandi Osbourn



Leigh Overby



Debbie Owen



David Pair



Heather Palmer



Kimberly Parish



Emily Parker



John Parkhurst



Emily Pate



Jennifer Pate



Krupa Patel



Agnes Patel-purohit



Natalie Patrick Carter



Natalie Patterson



Justin Paxson



Andrew Pearce



Katherine Peek



Lindsay Peirce



Charlene Penn



Blair Perkins



Sonya Peters



Kristine Pham



Anthony Phelps



Paige Phillips



Bradford Philpot



Julie Piazza



Sharon Pierce



Veronica Pike



Patricia Pilkerton



Sarah Pillsbury



Lindsay Plattner



Krista Plaxco



Jason Pointer



Emily Pontero



Melissa Poole



William Porter



Caroline Powell



John Price



Nick Pritchard



Kevin Pughsley



Ashleigh Pulley



Tracie Pylant



Jack Pyles



Julie Raschen



Geraldine Ray



Charles Read



Julienne Rebell



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Kristina Reed



Melinda Reed



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Michael Rodgers



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Meg Rogers



Tanya Rogers



Jessica Roland



Nancy Roland



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Hannah Rowland



Nancy Rowland



Lakeita Rox



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Jessica Rutledge



Cheryl Salamone



Kristen Salughter



David Sanford



Stephen Sansom



Nathan Sasse



Amy Saxon



Matthew Scales



Ben Schmidt



Trent Schmidt



Jeremy Scroggs



Andrew Searles



Carol Seay



Kristen Seay



Kristin Seidensticker



Katelin Sellers



Patrick Sewell



Lauren Sexton



Brian Seymoor



Clint Shadinger



Sarah Shadir



Virginia Shanks



April Shannon



Brian Sharon



Mary Kathryn Shaw



Carol Sheffield



Shelley Shehane



Tatyana Shelanova



Christa Shields



Ann Shivers



Cari Short



Sarah Simmons



Sarah Catherine Simmons



Valerie Simon



Kierra Sims



Robert Sims



Andy Sisk



Abigail Sites



James Skinner



Harrison Slatery



Jordan Simpkins



Alicia Smith



Amanda Smith



Emily Smith



Jennifer Smith



Jerry Smith



Laura Smith



Rachel Smith



Taylor Smith



Yolanda Smith



Jennifer Snell



Jonathan Snyder



Terri Sorge



Robin Spann



Emiliy Sparks



Tamela Sparks



Clayton Speed



John Herbert Spencer Jr



Amanda Spikes



Sarah Spires



Mary Splawn



Bruce Wayne Splawn Jr.



Deanna Staires



Circe Starks



Blair Stegall



Jennifer Stephens



Michael Stevens



William Stevens



Celia Stewart



Celia Stewart



Rebecca Stiver



Angel Stivers



Megan Stodard



Allison Stone



Robert Stone



William Stone



Haley Stoner



Patricia Storey



Kristen Straw



William Strickland



Amanda Stricklin



Andrea Stripling



Penny Surrett



Kelli Sutter



Joleigh Sutton



Anna Swindle



Marsha Talton



Ginger Taylor



Kenyatta Taylor



Megan Teegarden



Lauren Teeters



Daniel Temple



Christopher Tennies



Kathryn Terry



Elaine Thagard



Matt Thomas



Sheri Thomas



Sheri Thomas



Tara THomas



Ashley Thompson



Tyisha Thompson



Benjamin Thomson



Dorothy Thornton



Shylan Thornton



James Thrash



Samuel Tidwell



Paula Tolbert



Bradley Tomas



Kellie Tooker



Audrey Troutt



Hunter Tubbs



Katherine Tucker



Katherine Turk



Angelique Turner



Holley Turner



Nathan Turner



Amanda Twilley



Susan Tyner



Kathryn Underwood



Jonathan Vance



Meredith Vanderford



Variyaporn Vangtan



Kandis Vann



Joanna Vaughan



Alex Vaughn



Joshua Vaughn



Marla Vaughn



Gilbert Verbist



Eric Vest



Daniel Vines



Rosa Vitale



Megan Voelkel



Lauren Wagner



Andrea Waldrop



Belinda Walker



Thamos Walker



Jennifer Steiner Walsh



Justin Ward



Oona Ward



Ryan Warden



Katherine Ware



Dana Warren



Lauren Wasby



Shani Washington



Emily Lauren Waters



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Jawanda West



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Jeremiah West



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Emily White



Miranda Whitsett



Emily Whitty



Jason Wicker



Mark Wicker



John Wilherson



Matthew Wilkes



Ashley Williams



Gaylon Williams



Jermetrius Williams



Katelyn Williams



Alfred Williams II



Stacy Willis



Nash Wills



Jennifer Wilmore



Brandı Wilson



Caralisa Wilson



Jamie Wilson



Jason WIlson



Leslie Ann Wilson



Nathaniel Wilson



Valeria Wilson



Jessica Winkler



Sarah Wolt



Katherine Womble



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Andrea Woolley



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